The Great Grid Upgrade

Grimsby to Walpole

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 3 Part B Section Specific Assessments

Sections 1-7

Chapter 2 Landscape

Appendix 2A Landscape Character Baseline

June 2025

Grimsby to Walpole
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Contents

Introduction **2**

Landscape Character Area Baseline **3-49**

National Character Areas (NCA)
NCA 41: Humber Estuary 4
NCA 42: Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes 5
NCA 43: Lincolnshire Wolds 7
NCA 44: Central Lincolnshire Vale 9
NCA 46: The Fens 11

North East Lincolnshire Landscape Character Types (LCT)
LCT 2: Open Farmland 14
LCT 3: Wooded Farmland 16
LCT 4: Flat Open Farmland 18
LCT 5: Sloping Farmland 20
LCT 6: High Farmland 22

East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT)
RLCT 2A: Settled Fens and Marshes 26
RLCT 2B: Planned and Drained Fens 28
RLCT 2C: Fen and Marsh Margin Farmlands 30
RLCT 7A: Chalk Wolds 32
RLCT 7B: Wolds Scarps, Ridges and Valleys 34

Fenland Landscape Character Areas (LCA)
LCA: Drained Fenland 38
LCA: Wisbech Settled Fen 40

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Landscape Character Areas (LCA)
LCA D2: Walpole Terrington and Clenchwarton 44
LCA D3: Terrington St John 46
LCA D4: Emneth, West Walton and Walsoken 48

References **51**

Introduction

This appendix provides background baseline information for the RLCT, LCT and LCAs within the Study Area and should be read in conjunction with:

- **PEI Report Volume 3 Appendix 2A – Preliminary Summary of Landscape Effects**
- **PEI Report Volume 2 Part B Section 1 - 7 Chapter 2 Figure 2.1 – Landscape Designations and Features**
- **PEI Report Volume 2 Part B Section 1 - 7 Chapter 2 Figure 2.2 – Landform and Drainage**
- **PEI Report Volume 2 Part B Section 1 - 7 Chapter 2 Figure 2.3 – National Landscape Character Areas**
- **PEI Report Volume 2 Part B Section 1 - 7 Chapter 2 Figure 2.4 – Regional and Local Landscape Character Areas**

Background information provided for each area of landscape includes a map of the area, baseline description and key characteristics. It also includes judgements on the value of the landscape and its susceptibility to change arising from the Project.

For completeness and to provide further context to the assessment, the relevant National Landscape Character Areas (NCA) as defined by Natural England (Ref 1) are also included in this Appendix. This is to ensure that the potential for significant effects at a wider than district level is understood, given the length of the route and geographical coverage of the Project. An assessment of the effects of the Project on the NCAs will be provided in the project-wide assessment of landscape effects presented in the ES, once the assessments of the more detailed regional and local landscape types have been completed.

Baseline Description

The descriptions are based on the landscape character assessments prepared by North Lincolnshire Council (Ref 2), the East Midlands Councils (Ref 3), Fenland District Council (Ref 4) and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council (Ref 5). The baseline descriptions in this appendix were informed by an extensive review of these RLCT, LCT and LCA, as well as Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, Google Earth Pro, Google Streetview, and field survey.

Landscape value tables are included for each RLCT, LCT and LCA. These highlight the preliminary judgements made with regard to the appraisal of the relative value of the landscape (within the Study Area). As described in the landscape methodology at **PEI Report Volume 3 Part A Appendix 4B Environmental Impact Assessment Methodologies and Scope**, judgements are made against a series of factors and are visually represented on a sliding scale bar representing lower to higher value.

Judgements on Susceptibility

As with the appraisal of landscape value, preliminary judgements of susceptibility are made against individual factors in accordance with Section 2 of the methodology set out in **PEI Report Volume 3 Part A Appendix 4B Environmental Impact Assessment Methodologies and Scope**. These judgements are visually represented on a sliding scale bar representing lower to higher value. The detailed assessments of landscape susceptibility primarily relate to the 400 kV overhead line component of the Project. Where relevant, landscape susceptibility to a new substation is also reported.

National Landscape Character Areas

NCA 41: Humber Estuary

Context

The Humber Estuary NCA covers the open and expansive waters of the Humber and the adjacent low-lying land. It is an estuarine landscape, with extensive stretches of intertidal habitats including mudflats, salt marsh, reedbeds, coastal dunes and wetlands along the side of the estuary. The Humber Estuary is of international importance, as a Ramsar site, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The adjacent land has largely been reclaimed, resulting in large fields bounded by ditches, which form high-quality arable farmland. The farmland is low-lying and flat, with few hedgerows and occasional small woodlands sheltering the large farmsteads.

Much of the landscape is open and expansive, with long views and tranquil and remote places, such as Spurn Point, Blacktoft Sands and Skitter Ness, or quiet rural areas dominated by farming. These areas contrast with the large towns of Hull and Immingham, with their industrial complexes, and with the estuary itself, which is a busy trading route.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA (Ref 6) defined by Natural England are:

- *'Expansive, flat, low-lying estuarine landscape shaped by the River Humber and its confluence with the Rivers Ouse and Trent.*
- *Chalk bedrock exposed as cliffs where the estuary cuts through the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds.*
- *Predominantly reclaimed, fertile land supporting productive arable farming in large, rectangular fields bordered by dykes, drains, and embankments, with minimal tree cover.*
- *Large, dispersed farmsteads and small villages on higher land are set within a quiet rural landscape.*
- *Internationally significant habitats, including mudflats, salt marshes, and sand dunes, supporting diverse bird species, grey seals, and lampreys.*
- *Vast skies and open views over the estuary and salt marshes, with industrial installations visible, especially on the south bank.*
- *Quiet rural and estuarine areas sharply contrast with urban and industrial influences near Hull, especially on the south bank.*
- *The Humber Bridge affords some of the best views of the estuary.*
- *Wind turbines and pylons are prominent skyline elements'.*

Landscape Change

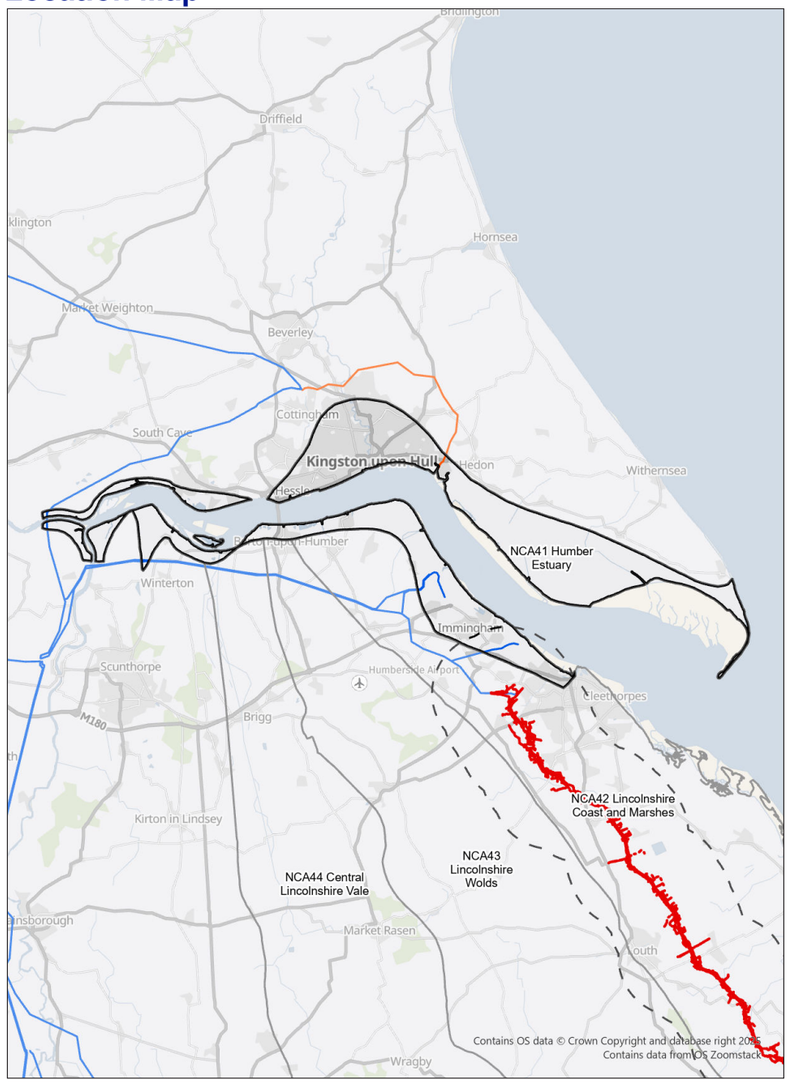
The NCA Profile (Ref 6) notes that the Humber Estuary is subject to strong development pressures from rapid urban regeneration and industry. The expansion of industrial complexes, transport links and urban areas associated with Hull and Immingham has brought with it a loss of tranquillity. The building of motorways and the construction of the Humber Bridge in 1981 have linked the ports and industrial areas with their hinterlands, reducing the separation between the north and south banks and encouraging further development. Increasing presence and pressure for energy schemes and distribution networks may alter the character of the landscape.

The overall trend for landscape change is stated as *'mainly improving'.*

Key management objectives to the Project include:

- *'Carefully planning new industrial complexes and structures so that they are integrated into local landscape character, by retaining key views, landscape features and sites of nature conservation value'.*
- *Ensuring that light spill is minimised through careful lighting design, particularly in the more tranquil and undisturbed area.*
- *Avoiding development in remote and tranquil areas'.*

Location Map



Key

5 km Study Area

Draft Order Limits

NCA 42: Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes

Context

The Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes NCA is the long, flat and low-lying coastal plain situated between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the North Sea. Predominantly rural farmland, it features subtle variations in topography, tree cover, and land use changes, with more dynamic processes along its coastline. The coastal plain consists of three distinct but interconnected areas running parallel to the Wolds.

To the west, Middle Marsh is a gently rising, arable landscape with a relatively high woodland cover. Fields include small, ancient enclosures near villages and larger planned enclosures over former open fields and commons. East of this is the Outmarsh which comprises flat, open pastureland with extensive views. It features ancient drained landscapes, grassland, and rough grazing. Settlements include linear villages along former drove roads and isolated farmsteads in 19th-century planned fields. The coast itself comprises a wide, open area of beaches, sand dunes, salt marsh, mudflats and sea bank clay pits with long views and high levels of tranquillity between the holiday resort towns, which have developed from former fishing and industrial settlements.

The Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or AONB) covers a small part of the NCA but maintains strong visual, recreational, and access links with the coast and marshes.

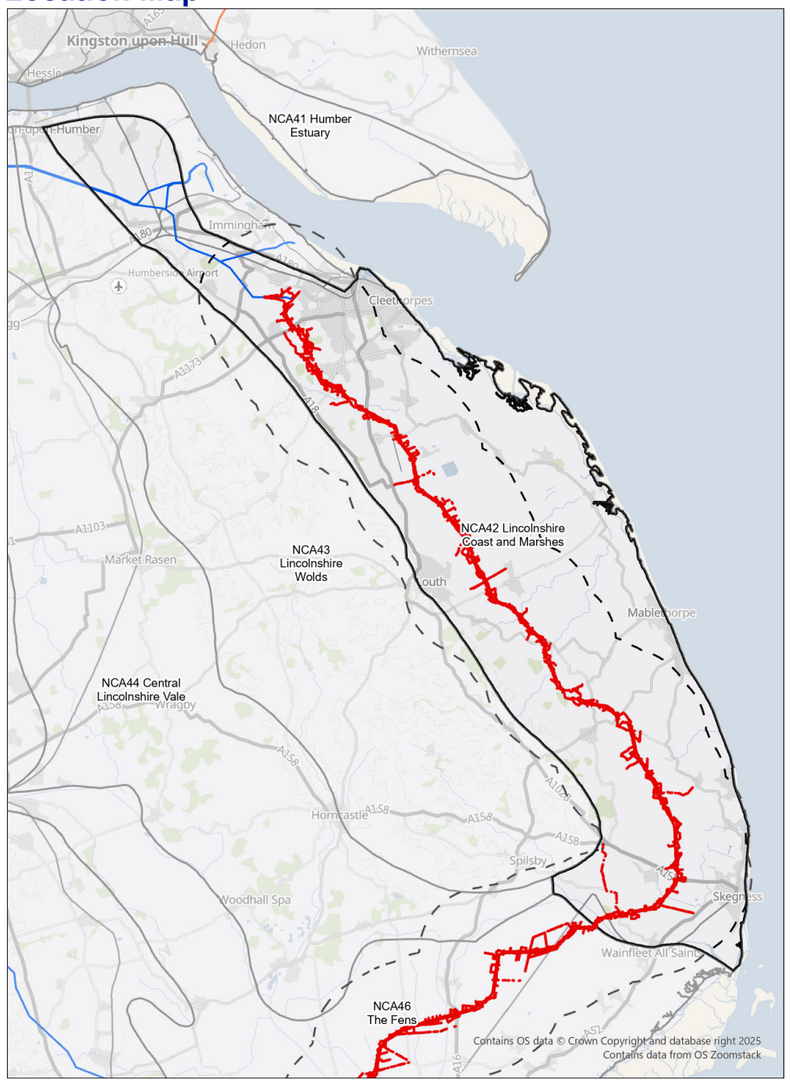
The NCA offers expansive coastal views, including the North Norfolk coast from the south and the Humber Estuary to Spurn Head in the north. Inland, there are views over the coastal plain and marshes towards the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB). Wind farms, both onshore and offshore, punctuate views.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA (Ref 7) defined by Natural England are:

- *'Flat coastal plain to the east, with dramatic skylines across great distances, rising gradually in the west to more undulating land at the foot of the adjacent Lincolnshire.*
- *Strong marine influences of accretion and erosion shape the coastline with extensive wide, shallow beaches, vast areas of mudflats, major dune systems, continuous lengths of artificial sea defences, and numerous sandy beaches and nature reserves.*
- *Important coastal habitats are managed for nature conservation. There are coastal mudflats and a dune complex in Cleethorpes. Extensive dune systems and salt marshes support a wide range of overwintering and migratory seabirds. At Gibraltar Point an ancient calcareous dune system exists and coastal saline lagoons, reedbeds and mudflats are important for their biodiversity.*
- *Land management has had a fundamental impact on the character of this area, with a clear distinction between the higher ground of the Middle Marsh, where settlement is nucleated, and dispersed settlement relating to drainage in the Outmarsh.*
- *Inland is a predominantly open, medium-scale agricultural landscape with mixed arable farmland in the Middle Marsh to the west. The Outmarsh, and smaller farm units with traditional pastures and occasional vegetable crops on the Outmarsh – nearer to the coast, also has medium-scale arable agriculture with pockets of traditional pasture.*
- *Traditional grazing marshes are a nationally threatened habitat with a distinctive landscape and cultural history. They need to be grazed, for example with cattle, and a range of cattle types are used including Lincoln Reds.*
- *Woodland and hedge cover is sparse but increases westwards towards the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds with significant ancient woodland on the Middle Marsh. The substantial amount of ancient semi-natural woodland includes a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and nature reserves (such as Rigsby, Muckton and Legbourne). More minimal tree and hedgerow cover is found on the lower-lying, open Outmarsh.*
- *A complex series of rivers and small streams drains eastwards towards the sea. There are some natural watercourses such as the Great Eau and Waithe Beck, as well as a network of many manmade drainage ditches. The disused Louth Canal – a canalisation of the River Lud – extends as far as Tetney Lock.*
- *Many deserted medieval villages surviving under grass are found in this NCA. Reclaimed marshland and salt marshes contain traces of ridge and furrow (which are permanent pasture) and areas retain important evidence of medieval and later industry (for example, salterns) with evidence of ancient salt works.*
- *A dispersed settlement pattern is characteristic throughout much of the area with a concentration of larger settlement along the coast including resort towns. The port of Grimsby, once one of the largest fishing ports in the country, now acts as an important international freight link.*
- *Rural areas have a mix of dispersed and nucleated settlement; the latter concentrated in the Middle Marsh. Rural settlements and market towns are strongly characterised by the use of brick and pantile, as a result of extensive 18th- and 19th-century rebuilding, with some very rare mud and stud buildings. Stone was used in particular for churches and high status buildings.*

Location Map



Key

5 km Study Area

Draft Order Limits

NCA 42: Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes

Key Characteristics Continued

- *Industrial areas are located in parts of the coastal strip, and there is some discordant development in certain areas, such as holiday resorts of bungalows and very extensive caravan parks. In places offshore and onshore wind turbines are present and distinctive on the skyline.*
- *The developed seaside resorts attract tourists to the coast. The undeveloped wild coast with inspiring long views, high levels of tranquillity and numerous nature reserves means that this area is important for access, recreation and green tourism'.*

Landscape Change

The NCA Profile (Ref 7) explains that the Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes is subject to ongoing pressures from flood risk and development.

The overall trend for landscape change is stated as *'mixed change, mainly improving'*.

Key management objectives to the Project include:

- *'Carefully planning new industrial complexes and structures so that they are integrated into local landscape character, by retaining key views, landscape features and sites of nature conservation value, and creating new habitats, thus ensuring that industrial sites have areas that are 'permeable' and can link with networks of connected habitats.*
- *Protecting the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and working in partnership to implement the adopted Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan…*
- *Retaining the open character of the landscape with its expansive views and big skies. Protecting areas with a strong sense of remoteness, wildness and tranquillity and dark skies.*
- *Conserving quiet rural areas by encouraging sensitive development, respecting long and open views and enhancing the character of rural settlements and traditional buildings.*
- *Protecting open views and the simple, open character of the landscape and seascape, enhancing access to and interpretation of the wealth of natural and heritage assets, and recreational opportunities, throughout the area (including the NNRs, the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park and AONB)'.*

NCA 43: Lincolnshire Wolds

Context

The Lincolnshire Wolds NCA is a long, narrow band of rolling farmland dominated by a west-facing chalk escarpment approximately 50m high. It features open arable plateau hilltops, chalk escarpments, deep dry valleys with beech woods, and isolated ash trees. To the east, rivers and streams flowing off the Wolds have created a softly undulating, eastwards sloping terrain with a high coverage of woodland. To the southeast, glacial till forms a rounded edge to the Wolds, while in the south, eroded chalk reveals Lower Cretaceous sands, clays, and ironstones, creating low hills with gravel terraces. The NCA is an important food-producing area, with predominantly arable farming and limited semi-natural habitat. Woodland cover is generally sparse, but the trees and woodlands remain important to the landscape. The open skies and views contribute to its tranquil and inspiring character. Sixty-two per cent of the Wolds falls within the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB).

The Wolds are sparsely populated, with villages, modest country houses and farmsteads hidden within the folds of the landscape and larger market towns like Louth on the periphery. Settlements retain much of their historic character. The area features many ancient burial sites, with monuments including Neolithic barrows, bronze-age round barrows. There is also evidence of Roman occupation, and several Roman roads are still in use. The Wolds also host one of the country's highest concentrations of abandoned medieval villages, with over 100 deserted sites, remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation, and moats such as the medieval site at Brinkhill.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA (Ref 8) defined by Natural England are:

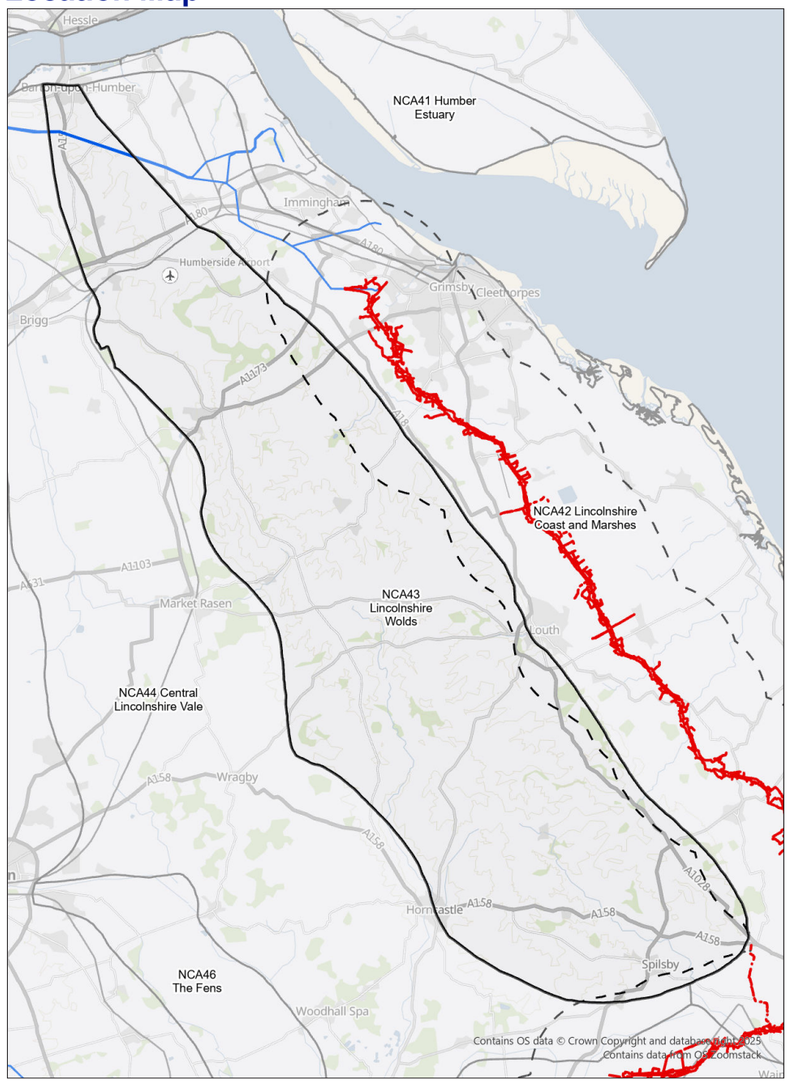
- *'Rolling chalk hills and a predominantly agricultural landscape with a pronounced scarp edge to the north and west affording panoramic views across the surrounding land.*
- *A diverse geology of chalk, sandy limestone, ironstone and clay gives rise to a combination of elevated plateau and deep-sided dales. Soils are generally shallow and lime rich with rich loamy soils associated with valley bottoms. Typically sandy loams dominate the Lymn Valley with permeable loams in the Bain Valley which are interspersed with clay soils associated with Kimmeridge Clay beds.*
- *Predominantly arable, but some pasture fields with rectilinear patterns and clipped hawthorn hedgerows. Farmland habitats are found together with farmland birds including skylark, linnet, yellowhammer, reed bunting, corn bunting, yellow wagtail, curlew, tree sparrow, grey partridge, bullfinch and turtle dove.*
- *Woodland is limited particularly to the north but there are occasional shelterbelts, hedgerow trees and scattered beech clumps. Important alder carr woodland is associated with some of the valleys in the south-west.*
- *Isolated chalk and neutral grasslands typically on the steepest uncultivated slopes.*
- *Valuable semi-natural acidic mires are found in the valley marshes of the Lymn and Bain. The broader south-west valleys of the rivers Lymn and Bain have tree-lined watercourses. The mixed farmed landscape of irregular medium-sized fields in the south-west valleys provides contrasts with the arable-dominated plateau.*
- *Broad grass verges up to 20 m on some roads and historical tracks provide valuable species-rich linear habitats thought to be remnants of pre-enclosure pastures.*
- *Chalk springs and flushes and chalk stream habitats supporting submerged plants such as water crowfoot, a rich invertebrate fauna and flagship species such as otter, water vole, kingfisher and brown trout.*
- *A historically and archaeologically rich landscape of small parklands and modest country houses, ancient trackways, west–east salters' roads, deserted or shrunken villages and prehistoric round and long barrows.*
- *A sparse settlement pattern of small market towns and small nucleated villages (often in sheltered valleys) and scattered farmsteads. The settlements are predominantly linked by west–east A roads linking to coastal areas.*
- *A diverse geology gives rise to a variety of building materials including brick, sandy limestone, sandstone and ironstone with churches built of local stone.*
- *Development of wartime airfields including Kirmington (now operating as Humberside International Airport), Elsham Wolds, Binbrook, Ludford and Kelstern'.*

Landscape Change

The NCA Profile (Ref 8) explains that the Lincolnshire Wolds are subject to ongoing pressures from climate change and development, including biomass and biofuels, telecommunication masts and light, noise and air pollution from roads including M180/A180, settlements, quarries and other localised activities including Humberside International Airport.

The visual impact of expanding renewable energy developments, including recent wind farm development, is one of the biggest pressures on the NCA because of the impacts on the long, rural, undisturbed views which define its character.

Location Map



Key

5 km Study Area — Draft Order Limits

NCA 43: Lincolnshire Wolds

Landscape Change Continued

The overall trend for landscape change is stated as *'mixed change, mainly declining'.*

Key management objectives relevant to the Project include:

- *'Protecting the sense of place by conserving the outstanding views into the adjacent National Character Areas (NCAs), intimate, steep-sided valleys and geological features which provide a sense of inspiration and a tranquil recreational resource.*
- *Planning for the creation of a strong landscape framework to provide a setting for new and existing development and transport infrastructure, ensuring that the valuable and protected landscape of the Lincolnshire Wolds is not diluted and that its tranquillity is not negatively affected.*
- *Avoiding development in remote and tranquil areas, in particular protecting the remote qualities of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the wider landscape of the Lincolnshire Wolds. All new development should be well designed, sympathetically located and screened. The dark skies featuring in the more remote areas also need protection.*
- *Protecting and promoting the Lincolnshire Wolds for the contribution they make as a historical, cultural, scientific and educational resource.*
- *Protecting the distinctive Wolds towns and villages, with their local building materials and nucleated settlement pattern, recognising that large-scale development would be severely detrimental to their character.*
- *Planning to limit the visual impact of any new development and, as appropriate, the encroachment of urbanising influences into areas with high tranquillity and low levels of light pollution'.*

NCA 44: Central Lincolnshire Vale

Context

The Central Lincolnshire Vale is a long, linear NCA extending south from the Humber Estuary to the Fens. It forms a broad, low-lying vale between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the Lincolnshire Edge. The landscape is gently undulating, flattening near sea level in the Ancholme Valley to the north and the Fens to the south, with the Wolds as a backdrop along the eastern edge.

Streams flow from the Wolds into the rivers Ancholme and Witham, dividing drainage between the Humber and The Wash. Despite heavy modification, these watercourses create interconnected habitats and opportunities for recreation. The Horncastle Canal, formed by canalising the River Bain in the 18th century, remains a feature.

Arable farming dominates, with pasture on heavier clays, Wolds scarp slopes, and near villages. Fields are mostly medium to large and rectilinear, especially in the Ancholme Valley, while smaller pastures surround settlements. Hedgerows, mainly hawthorn, vary in condition, with wooded hedgerows more common in the Limewoods and Fen Edge Gravels. In many places, field amalgamation has formed expansive open landscapes, particularly where divided by ditches, thereby lacking visual vertical boundaries.

Woodland cover is sparse on the central and northern clay soils but more abundant in the Coversands and Fen Edge Gravels, including conifer plantations and ancient lime woodlands near Wragby and Bardney. Semi-natural habitats are fragmented due to drainage and commercial agriculture and forestry.

Settlements are small and dispersed, with hamlets, farmsteads, and occasional larger villages connected by minor roads and tracks. Despite busy roads like the A158 and M180, much of the Vale retains a tranquil, rural character.

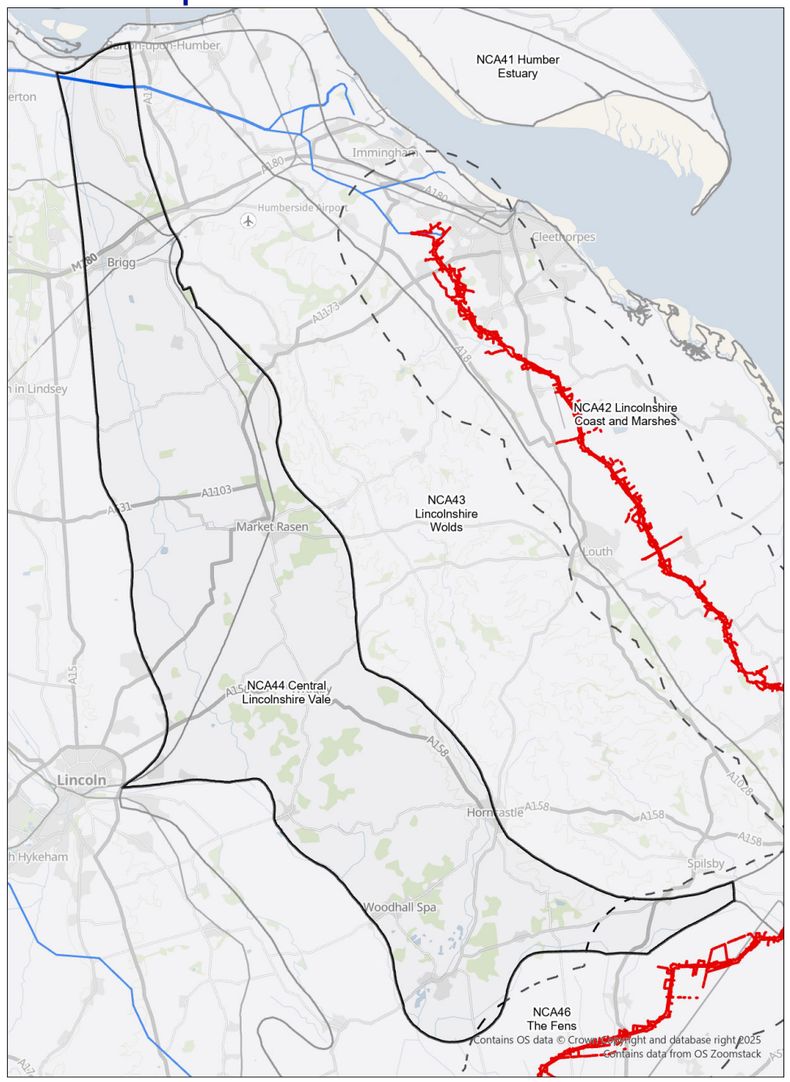
The area is rich in medieval heritage, including deserted villages, ridge and furrow remnants, and monastic sites near the River Witham. Lincoln Cathedral, just outside the Vale, serves as a prominent landmark. Expansive skies and low light pollution enhance the Vale's distinctive character.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA (Ref 9) defined by Natural England are:

- *'A predominantly broad, low-lying, very gently undulating arable vale with a bedrock, chiefly of Jurassic mudstones and almost entirely covered by a variety of superficial deposits, largely of glacial till (boulder clay), and with the Wolds scarp providing an often prominent boundary to the east.*
- *Seasonally waterlogged loamy clay soils, grading to deeper calcareous loams towards the Wolds and contrasting with deep acidic sandy soils on the Fen Edge Gravels and the wind-blown Coversands.*
- *A landscape crossed by many streams flowing from the Wolds towards the heavily modified courses of the main rivers: the straight course of the canalised River Ancholme which flows north into the Humber and the similarly modified River Witham which flows south to The Wash.*
- *Woodland cover is variable with little on the central and northern clay soils, much more on the Coversands and Fen Edge Gravels including extensive conifer plantations, while there is a concentration of ancient lime woodland between Wragby and Bardney.*
- *Land used mostly as arable farmland with pasture on the heavier clays and around villages.*
- *In general, a regular pattern of medium to large-sized arable fields with hawthorn-dominant hedgerows enclosing most fields and with few hedgerow trees. Significant variation found on the Coversands and Fen Edge Gravels where field boundary trees are a feature, and on the flat land of the Ancholme Valley where rectilinear fields tend to be divided by ditches and dykes.*
- *Very limited semi-natural habitat, most being lost through drainage and commercial agriculture and forestry; however, significant remnants of lowland heath and acid grassland survive on the Coversands and Fen Edge Gravels, and Bardney Limewoods represents England's biggest concentration of ancient small-leaved lime-dominated woodland.*
- *A landscape rich in medieval sites with remnant ridge and furrow, deserted medieval villages and a cluster of monastic sites close to the River Witham, while Lincoln Cathedral, just outside the Vale, in the west provides a landmark across much of the area.*
- *Traditional building materials predominantly of brick and pantile reflecting the availability and suitability of local clay with stone from surrounding areas used in churches and high-status buildings. Large modern barns and outbuildings contrast with the established character.*
- *A deeply rural, tranquil landscape with sparsely distributed small nucleated settlements and isolated farmsteads linked by an extensive but sparse network of minor roads and tracks with few major roads.*
- *A variety of recreational assets including routes within the Lincolnshire Limewoods, several Forestry Commission managed plantations and woodland sites, the Viking Way long-distance footpath, Woodhall Spa, Tattershall Castle and waterborne* recreation provided by the rivers Witham and Ancholme and some flooded gravel pits.'

Location Map



Key

5 km Study Area

Draft Order Limits

NCA 44: Central Lincolnshire Vale

Landscape Change

The NCA Profile (Ref 9) explains that the rural and tranquil landscape of the Central Lincolnshire Vale is under various pressures including mineral extraction and wind farm development. It also notes that the NCA is an important area for food production and explains that climate change could impact food production by altering growing seasons and precipitation patterns, leading to changes in agricultural practices and landscape character.

The overall trend for landscape change is stated as *'mixed change, mainly improving'*.

Key management objectives to the Project include:

- *'Screening urban and industrial influences (such as gravel workings) with the use of substantial and appropriate woodland planting, and reducing the intrusion of development through means such as sensitive lighting and use of green roofs.*
- *Ensuring that the location, form and design of new development are guided by Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping and Landscape Character Assessment objectives, village design guidance and design briefs, and use of local architectural styles and materials as well as sensitive lighting'.*

NCA 46: The Fens

Context

The Fens are a flat, open and low-lying landscape which drains into the Wash, England's largest tidal estuary. Much of the land lies below sea level, with vast horizons and expansive skies creating a strong sense of remoteness. Rectilinear drainage systems support intensive agriculture on nationally important peat soils, while woodland is limited to roadside trees, village clusters, and orchards in the Wisbech area.

Four main rivers, the Witham, Welland, Nene, and Great Ouse, follow artificial canalised courses with high banks separating them from the adjacent fields. 'Roddons' (elevated silt banks) highlight former tidal creek systems, contrasting with the surrounding degraded peat soils.

The landscape varies across the NCA. The 'settled inland fens' near the Wash feature sinuous lanes, small settlements, medieval churches, and remnant grasslands. The 'peaty fens,' drained between the 17th and 19th centuries, consist of rectilinear fields and straight roads with minimal semi-natural habitats remaining. The southeast Lincolnshire fens are similarly rectilinear and productive, with little trace of their rich ecological past.

The settlement patterns aligns with historical development, with the larger towns including Boston, Spalding, and Wisbech in the inland fens. Modern developments include ribbon housing located along major roads such as the A17 and A47. In contrast, the peaty fens are sparsely settled, with isolated farmsteads and derelict buildings.

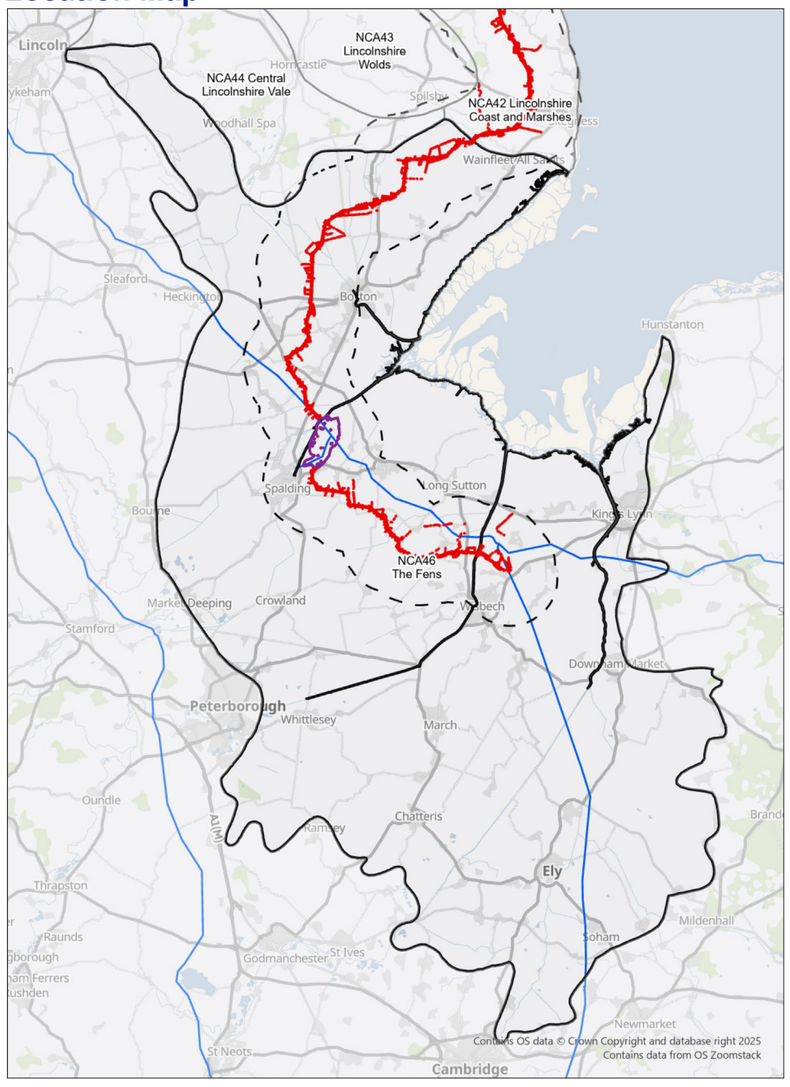
The Fens are crossed by major transport links, including the East Coast mainline railway and roads such as the A16, A17, and A47, which form elevated corridors and contribute to rising light pollution. Other infrastructure includes power stations and pylon lines, with the latter exerting a strong influence in the flat landscape.

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of the NCA (Ref 10) defined by Natural England are:

- *'Expansive, flat, open, low-lying wetland landscape influenced by the Wash estuary, and offering extensive vistas to level horizons and huge skies throughout, provides a sense of rural remoteness and tranquillity.*
- *Jurassic clays are overlain by rich, fertile calcareous and silty soils over the coastal and central fens and by dark, friable fen peat further inland. The soils are important for agriculture, which is hugely significant for the rural economy in the Fens. There are over 4,000 farms in the Fens; enough wheat is grown here annually to produce a quarter of a million loaves of bread and one million tons of potatoes are grown here. In addition to traditional vegetables, exotics such as pak choi are now cultivated. Some 40 per cent of England's bulbs and flowers are also produced in the Fens.*
- *The Wash is the largest estuarine system in Britain, supporting internationally important intertidal and coastal habitats influenced by constant processes of accretion and deposition, forming salt marsh and mudflats and providing habitats for wildfowl, wading birds and other wildlife, including grey seals and approximately 90 per cent of the UK's common seals. It also provides important natural sea defences and plays a key role in climate change regulation. Flood storage areas on the Nene, Cam, Lark and Ouse washes also provide significant biodiversity interest. True fen mainly occurs at remnant conservation sites, such as Baston or Wicken Fen.*
- *Overall, woodland cover is sparse, notably a few small woodland blocks, occasional avenues alongside roads, isolated field trees and shelterbelts of poplar, willow and occasionally leylandii hedges around farmsteads, and numerous orchards around Wisbech. Various alders, notably grey alder, are also used in shelterbelts and roadside avenues.*
- *The predominant land use is arable – wheat, root crops, bulbs, vegetables and market gardening made possible by actively draining reclaimed land areas. Associated horticultural glasshouses are a significant feature. Beef cattle graze narrow enclosures along the banks of rivers and dykes and on parts of the salt marsh and sea banks.*
- *Open fields, bounded by a network of drains and the distinctive hierarchy of rivers (some embanked), have a strong influence on the geometric/rectilinear landscape pattern. The structures create local enclosure and a slightly raised landform, which is mirrored in the road network that largely follows the edges of the system of large fields. The drains and ditches are also an important ecological network important for invertebrates, fish including spined loach, and macrophytes.*
- *The area is very rich in geodiversity and archaeology, with sediments containing evidence for past environmental and climate changes and with high potential for well-preserved waterlogged site remains at the fen edge, within some of the infilled palaeo-rivers and beneath the peat.*
- *Large, built structures exhibit a strong vertical visual influence, such as the 83 m-high octagonal tower of 'Boston Stump' (St Botolph's Church), Ely Cathedral on the highest part of the Isle of Ely dominating its surrounding fen, wind farms and other modern large-scale industrial and agricultural buildings, while drainage and flood storage structures and embanked rail and*

Location Map



Key

5 km Study Area

Draft Order Limits

Refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone

NCA 46: The Fens

Key Characteristics Continued

road routes interrupt the horizontal fen plain.

- *Settlements and isolated farmsteads are mostly located on the modestly elevated 'geological islands' and the low, sinuous roddon banks (infilled ancient watercourses within fens). Elsewhere, villages tend to be dispersed ribbon settlements along the main arterial routes through the settled fens, and scattered farms remain as relics of earlier agricultural settlements. Domestic architecture mostly dates from after 1750 and comprises a mix of late Georgian-style brick houses and 20th-century bungalows'.*

Landscape Change

The NCA Profile (Ref 10) explains that the Fens which have been significantly altered through time by drainage and intensive farming, are under significant pressure from ongoing soil erosion and flooding. Despite the heavy agriculture use and loss of salt marsh habitat, the Fens remain host to internationally important intertidal habitats, which may be improved by recent restoration schemes. Additional changes include pressures from sea level rise and increased storms, which may increase flooding as well as erosion, and may also impact constructed coastal defences.

The overall trend for landscape change is stated as *'mainly improving'.*

Key management objectives to the Project include:

- *'Conserving historic landmark buildings and earthwork sites together with their setting, especially on the settled fens and clay islands.*
- *Promoting understanding of the benefits and potential adverse impacts of wind farms and associated electricity transmission pylons, which are an increasing feature of the fenland landscape'.*

North East Lincolnshire Landscape Character

LCT 2: Open Farmland

Context

- NCA 42: Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes
- Historic LCA: The Grimsby Commuter Belt/The Humber Bank

The southern part of this LCT which lies immediately north west of Grimsby is within the Study Area. The A180 defines the northern extent while open farmland lies to the north west, west and south, with the edge of Grimsby to the east. A section of the southern boundary is defined by the Grimsby to Doncaster railway line where it bisects the settlement of Stallingborough which falls partly within the landscape type.

Key Characteristics

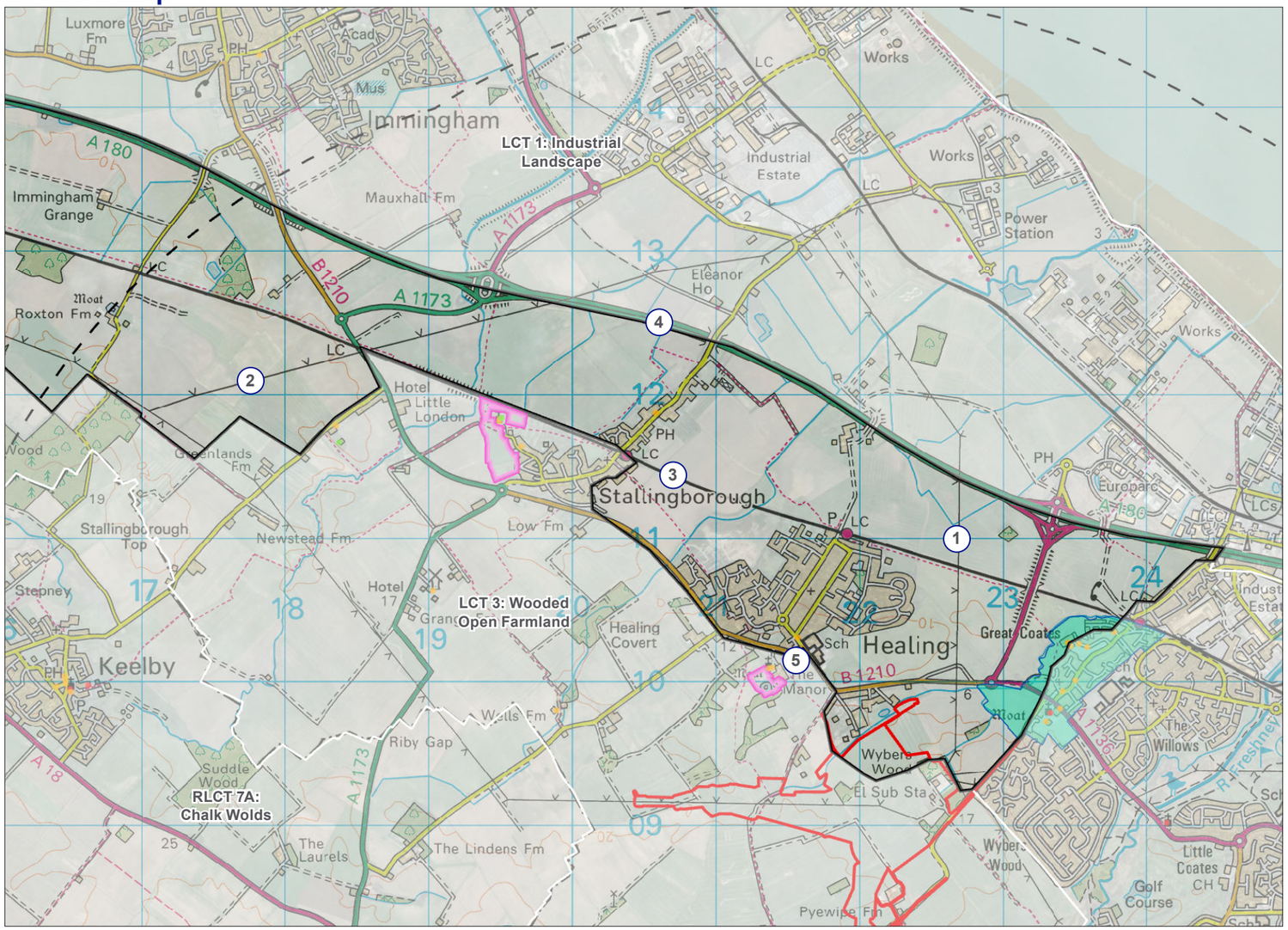
- Virtually flat landform emphasising large skies.
- Medium to large scale open arable farmland.
- Open views towards settlement edges and industry/docks.
- Overhead lines have an urbanising effect.
- Network of busy roads including the A180 and Grimsby to Doncaster railway line.
- Strong pattern of hedgerows with mature trees, particularly in the north of the LCT but becoming sparser and more fragmented to the north and west of Healing.
- A small network of artificial drainage channels includes the large Odlfleet Drain.
- Settlement includes Stallingborough and Healing with occasional dispersed farmsteads.

Baseline Description

This LCT is part of the flat coastal plain, lying below 10 m AOD and crossed by a network of small watercourses and drains. Arable farmland dominates, with areas of pasture north west of Grimsby. Medium to large fields form a regular pattern, with some field amalgamation and hedgerow loss, particularly to the north and west of Healing. Where boundaries have been removed, the underlying rectilinear field pattern is evident through the pattern of field drains, although they are not visually prominent. Occasional woodland blocks enhance the visual and ecological interest.

Settlement includes Stallingborough (northern part) and Healing which are separated by a single agricultural field. Stallingborough has occasional traditional buildings, although there are more in Healing. Stallingborough's edge is softened by woodland around its periphery, while Healing is particularly well-treed featuring strong tree-lined avenues and woodland around Oldfleet Drain, and associated with the parkland at Healing Manor. Scattered farmsteads and individual properties are present throughout. A

Location Map



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Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits

Notes

1. Existing 132 kV overhead line
2. Existing 400 kV overhead line
3. Grimsby to Doncaster Railway Line
4. A180
5. Healing Manor

network of busy transport routes crosses the area, including the east-west Grimsby to Doncaster railway line on partially wooded embankment. Main roads including the A180, A1173, and A1136 connect local settlements to Grimsby and the surrounding area.

Overhead lines are visible throughout with two existing overhead lines passing through the LCT and another visible to the south

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The area's distinctive character is defined by its flat landform and expansive skies, offering good visibility and a strong sense of place. Farmland retains much of its planned enclosure, with some 18th-century field patterns still intact. Even where the field pattern has been eroded by field amalgamation and hedgerow loss, the rectilinear layout is evident in the pattern of field drains. The settlement pattern retains some its historic character, with visible use of local building materials. Great Coates Conservation Area extends into the eastern edge of the LCT. While the LCT lacks significant ecological value, the network of hedgerows, drains, and dykes provides a moderate level of ecological connectivity. The public rights of way network is mainly concentrated to the east of the LCT, although a footpath follows the railway line for most of its length and Towers Way and Nev Cole Way cross the LCT.

The pattern of elements in the area is generally coherent, but there are detracting features, including transport corridors and overhead lines that cross the central and south western edges of the LCT. Views of industrial development associated with the edge of Immingham docks detract from the area's rural character.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape is considered to be medium.

Pylons and wood poles punctuate the skyline in views throughout the LCT

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The existing transport infrastructure, overhead lines, and industrial development along the south bank of the Humber indicate that the landscape is less susceptible to new high voltage electricity infrastructure. However, certain aspects remain more vulnerable. These include the open views and perception of large skies emphasised by the flat landform and limited built development. The landscape setting around the Great Coates Conservation Area and around Healing Manor and the parish church of St Peter and St Paul are susceptible to visual intrusion. The more rural, tranquil farmland areas are also susceptible to new infrastructure which would further disrupt the remaining sense of tranquillity and rural character.

Intervisibility with the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB), indicates an increased susceptibility to visual intrusion. However, this higher susceptibility is somewhat counterbalanced by the presence of an existing overhead line that traverses the farmland between Habrough and Stallingborough and then runs through the landscape again east of Healing.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table C, the susceptibility of the LCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV substation is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **medium**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table C: Landscape Susceptibility to a Substation

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Horlock Rule 4)	
Landcover pattern	
Field pattern, scale and enclosure	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV substation is judged to be **medium**.

LCT 3: Wooded Open Farmland

Context

- NCA 42: Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes
- Historic LCA: The Grimsby Commuter Belt/The Humber Bank

Extending from Keelby south to Ashton cum Fenby, the whole of this large LCT is within the Study Area. To the west lies the Lincolnshire National Landscape (AONB).

Key Characteristics

- Flat or gently landform emphasising large skies.
- Medium to large scale open arable farmland with blocks of woodland.
- Strong pattern of hedgerows and mature trees around fields and along lanes.
- Hedgerows are sparser and more fragmented around Aylesby and east of Laceby.
- Small watercourses include North Beck Drain, Laceby Beck, Waithe Beck, and a small network of artificial drainage channels.
- Settlement pattern comprises nucleated villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads.
- Overhead lines have an urbanising effect.
- Network of busy roads including the A46, A1173, B1210, but also quieter lanes.

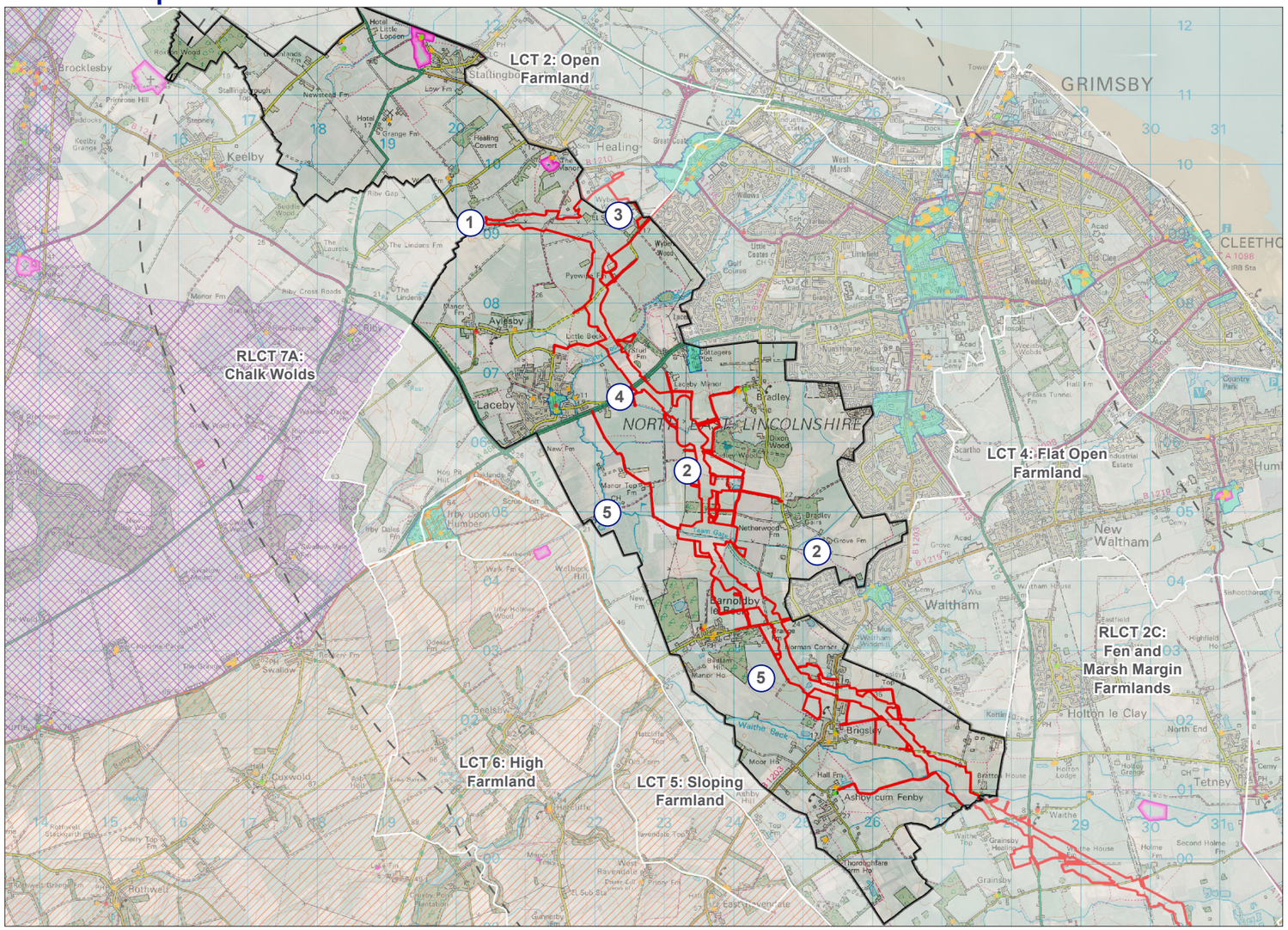
Baseline Description

This LCT is part of the flat Lincolnshire coastal plain, generally lying between 10 m and 20 m AOD and rising slightly toward the Lincolnshire Wolds. Small watercourses and the network of artificial drainage channels are often unmarked by vegetation. The main land use is arable farming, with medium to large fields forming a regular pattern that contributes to a uniform landscape.

The LCT features a nucleated settlement pattern with villages and hamlets, including Stallingborough, Aylesby, Laceby, Bradley, Barnoldby-le-Beck, Brigsley, and Ashby-cum-Fenby. Properties cluster around or are set back from main roads, with isolated farmsteads scattered throughout. Roads radiating from Grimsby include the busier A46, A1173, and B1210, while local lanes remain quieter.

Fields and roads are defined by low hedgerows with trees, while taller hedgerows line local lanes. Internal hedgerows are sparse and fragmented, particularly around Aylesby and east of Laceby. Large woodland blocks, including Bradley and Dixon Local Nature Reserve (ancient woodland) and The Gairs, are centrally located within the LCT, with smaller woodlands and

Location Map



Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB)
- Area of Great Landscape Value

Notes

1. Existing 400 kV overhead line
2. Existing 132 kV overhead line
3. Existing substations
4. A46
5. Wanderlust Way

tree belts scattered throughout, especially in the north and centre. Aylesby Park features mature parkland trees, and the woodland around Healing Manor House enhances the southern edge of Healing.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

Existing substations are screened by woodland blocks at Wybers Wood

The area's distinctive character is defined by its flat landform and expansive skies. The southern part of the LCT fall within the setting of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB) which contributes to its overall value. The area retains much of its historic settlement pattern and rural character, with evidence of planned enclosures, particularly around Waltham, and some unchanged 18th-century field patterns. Good examples of the local vernacular include the historic core of Laceby, a designated Conservation Area, and the Cottagers Plot Conservation Area near Grimsby. Scheduled Monuments include the Stallingborough medieval settlement and moated sites at Healing Manor. While these are visible locally, they are not prominent in the wider landscape.

Despite some field amalgamation, the landscape is in good condition, with a coherent field pattern defined by hedgerows and the network of drains and dykes. There is strong ecological integrity, supported by the well-connected woodlands including Bradley and Dixon Local Nature Reserve (also Ancient Woodland) and The Gairs (Ancient Woodland). Laceby Beck a tributary of the River Freshney flows east from Laceby and forms a well treed corridor with several small copses. Some of the fields close to the A46 contain frequent individual trees and small tree groups.

The public rights of way network includes the Wanderlust Way, which passes through several villages and the Nev Cole Way. Laceby Manor Golf Club, Caravan and Camping site (and angling lake) lies south of Laceby.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the LCT within the Study Area, which forms part of the setting of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB), is considered to be high.

The Wanderlust Way loops through the character area between Laceby Manor, Bradley and Barnoldby le Beck, with the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB) forming a backdrop to the west

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The area's distinctive character arises from its flat landform and expansive skies, which offer high visibility, occasionally interrupted by woodland. This openness makes the landscape vulnerable to high-voltage electricity infrastructure, particularly overhead lines. However, this higher susceptibility is somewhat counterbalanced by the presence of an existing overhead line that crosses the LCT.

The landscapes around the Laceby and Cottagers Plot Conservation Areas, and the Scheduled Monuments at Stallingborough and Healing, indicate higher susceptibility. Rural, tranquil farmland areas are particularly vulnerable, as new infrastructure could further disrupt the peaceful character, which is already affected by settlement expansion near the western and south western edges of Waltham, Barnoldby-le-Beck, and Brigsley.

The southern part of the LCT within the Study Area falls within the setting of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB), increasing its susceptibility to high-voltage electricity infrastructure.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table C, the susceptibility of the LCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV substation is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **high**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**.

Table C: Landscape Susceptibility to a Substation

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Horlock Rule 4)	
Landcover pattern	
Field pattern, scale and enclosure	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV substation is judged to be **medium**.

LCT 4: Flat Open Farmland

Context

- NCA 42: Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes
- Historic LCA: Grimsby Commuter Belt

Much of this LCT is within the Study Area. It lies immediately south of the main settlements of Grimsby and Cleethorpes which define its northern boundary. To the east is the Lincolnshire coastline which is protected by several European and national designations. Open farmland extends around the southern and western edges of the LCT and the suburb of Scartho defines the north western edge.

Key Characteristics

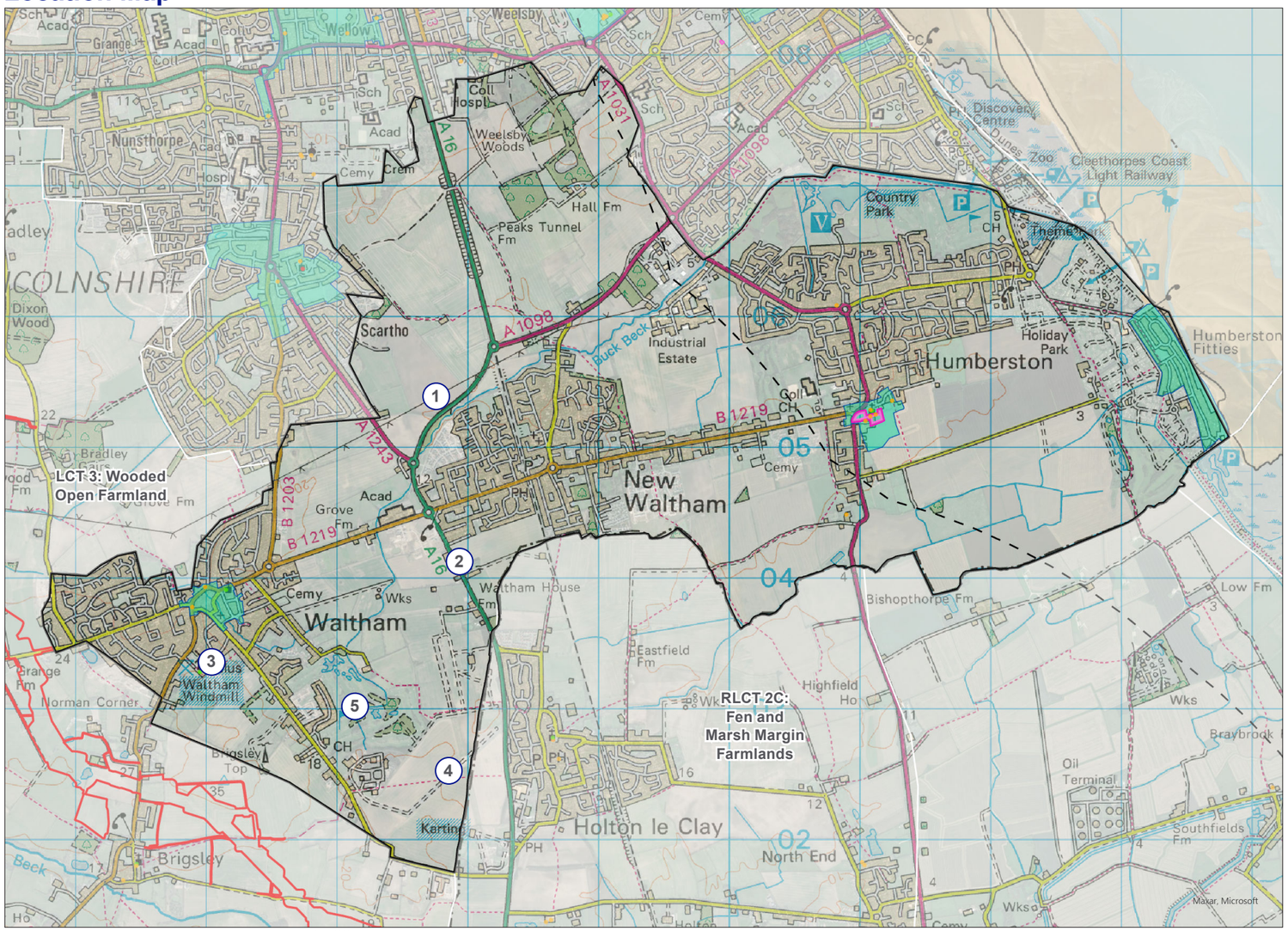
- Medium to large scale flat open arable farmland.
- Watercourses include Buck Beck and a small network of artificial drainage channels.
- Open views particularly in the south.
- Large settlements, industry and an overhead line have an urbanising effect.
- Network of busy roads including the A16, A1098, B1219, but also quieter lanes.
- Well-established low hedgerow field boundaries with occasional trees become more fragmented and less frequent in the north of the LCT.
- Roadside hedgerows are often low in the north and taller in the south.
- Large villages clustered along the B1219, with scattered farmsteads throughout.

Baseline Description

This LCT is part of the flat Lincolnshire coastal plain, which generally lies between 10 m and 15 m AOD and rises very gently towards Humberston, Waltham and the south western edge of the area. The landscape is flat, low-lying, and visually open, especially in the south. Buck Beck flows through the centre of the LCT, and there are several other small watercourses and artificial drainage channels. These are often marked by individual trees.

The landscape is mainly arable farmland with medium to large fields, defined by a network of low hedgerows, though these are more fragmented in the north where fields are larger. Hedgerow trees are less prominent than in adjacent LCTs. Woodland blocks, including Weelsby Woods and Carr Plantation Local Nature Reserves provide some screening of Grimsby's urban fringe. Cleethorpes Country Park Local Nature Reserve serves as a green buffer between Cleethorpes and Humberston. The main settlements are Waltham, New Waltham, and Humberston and individual properties and farmsteads are dispersed throughout but are typically more concentrated in

Location Map



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Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Draft Order Limits

Notes

1. Existing 132 kV overhead line
2. A16
3. Waltham Windmill
4. Waltham Disused Air Field
5. Waltham Windmill Golf Club

the north of the LCT.

Busy roads include the A16 and B1219, with views of the latter accentuated by avenue tree planting along much of the route.

Waltham Windmill
Photo © John Beal (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The flat, low-lying agricultural landscape has a distinct character, especially in the east and north east near Humberston Fitties and coastal tourist attractions. The settlement pattern retains historic features, with planned enclosures around Waltham and Humberston. Waltham, New Waltham, and Humberston are the largest settlements, with non-vernacular residential development centred around historic cores and Conservation Areas. Notable landmarks include Humberston Church and Waltham Windmill. Humberston Abbey Scheduled Monument is less prominent.

The landscape is in moderate condition, with a coherent field pattern despite some gappy hedgerows and field amalgamation. Ecological integrity is strong, supported by local nature sites and good connectivity. Woodland blocks, including Weelsby Woods and Carr Plantation, screen the Grimsby urban fringe, while Cleethorpes Country Park LNR serves as a buffer between Cleethorpes and Humberston.

The northern parts of the LCT are impacted by the urban fringes of Scartho, Grimsby, Cleethorpes, and the Humberston Industrial Estate. Here, pylon lines contribute to an urbanising effect. In contrast, the landscape becomes quieter and more rural further south.

Key recreational features include Cleethorpes Country Park LNR and Golf Club, Waltham Windmill Golf Club, and Humberston Park Golf Club. A network of lanes and public rights of way, including the Greenwich Meridian Trail, provides connectivity across the landscape.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the LCT within the Study Area is considered to be medium.

An existing 132 kV overhead line crosses the north of the LCT

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The flat, low-lying landscape affords long uninterrupted views, particularly across the southern part of the LCT where there are fewer trees and large skies dominate. These long open views and views towards the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB), and the local landmarks of Humberston Church and Waltham Windmill are vulnerable to visual intrusion.

The landscape surrounding Humberston Abbey Scheduled Monument, historic settlements, Conservation Areas of Waltham, Humberston, and Humberston Fitties, are vulnerable to visual intrusion. The peaceful rural farmland away from settlement and main roads is also susceptible to new high voltage electricity infrastructure that could affect scenic quality and disrupt its tranquil character.

In the northern part of the LCT, views are more contained by woodland blocks, roadside vegetation, and the urban edges of Scartho, Grimsby, and Cleethorpes. Features such as the Humberston Industrial Estate, a large supermarket, and an existing overhead line contribute to a more urban character, making this area less susceptible to the impacts of new high-voltage electricity infrastructure.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **medium**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

LCT 5: Sloping Farmland

Context

- NCA 42: Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes
- NCA 43: Lincolnshire Wolds
- Historic LCA: Grimsby Commuter Belt/Upper Wolds

The whole of this LCT is within the Study Area, and its western part is in the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB). The LCT is bordered by the A18 and A46 to the north east, with open farmland to the east and west. The southern boundary follows the A18 and a local lane, while changes in topography define the eastern and western edges, flattening toward Grimsby and rising to the west.

Key Characteristics

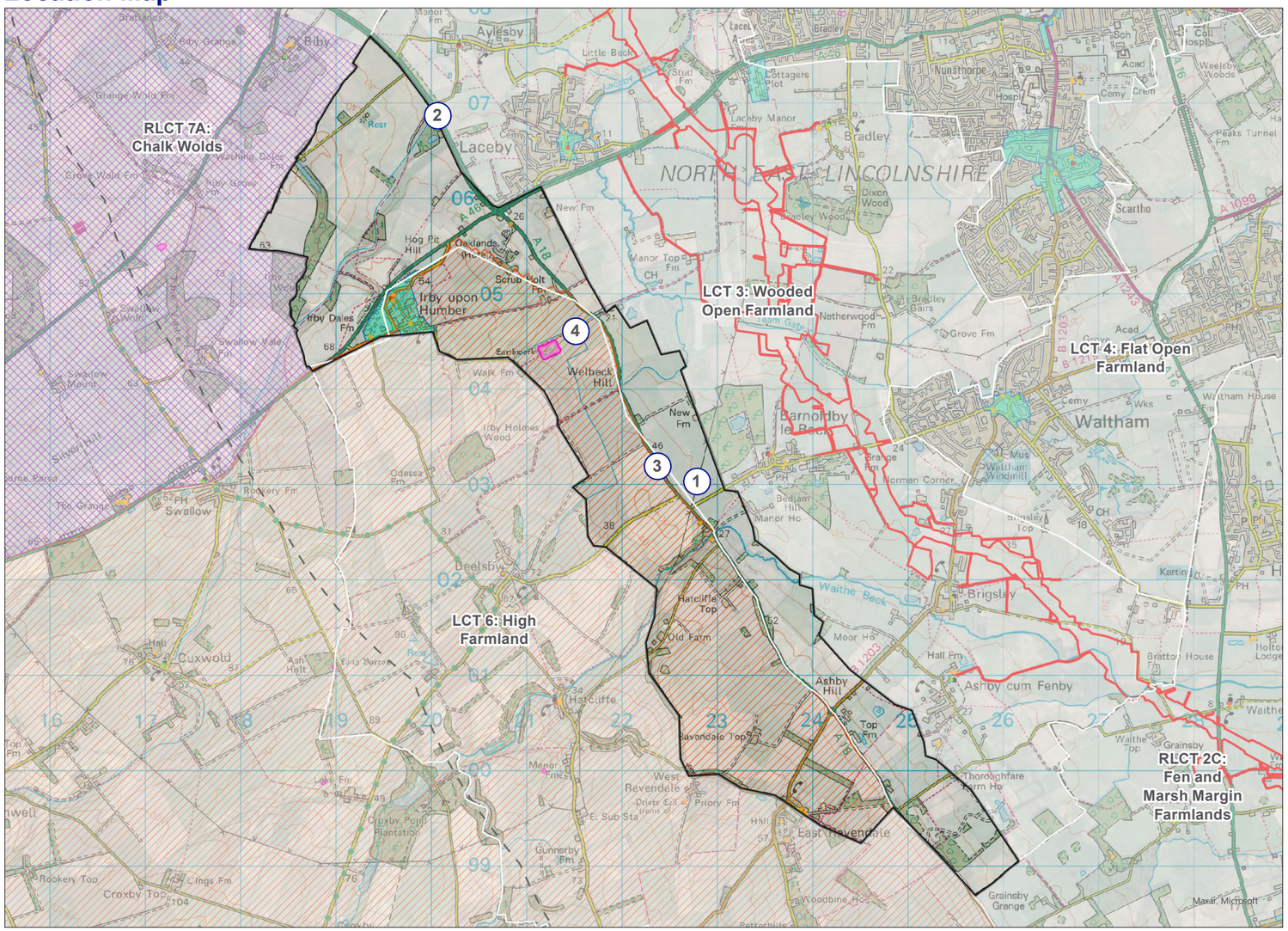
- Gently undulating landform in the north and west and more sloping in the east.
- Medium to large scale open arable farmland with smaller fields in the south.
- Hedgerows are well-established and low, with taller hedgerows along roads.
- Waithe Beck and a network of artificial drainage channels.
- Limited nucleated settlement pattern of hamlets, scattered farmsteads and some individual large buildings.
- Open and distant views towards Grimsby and Immingham where landmark buildings/structures are present on the skyline.
- Overhead lines have an urbanising effect.
- Network of busy roads including the A18 and A46 as well as quieter rural lanes.

Baseline Description

This transitional landscape rises gently from 15 m AOD in the north east to 35 m AOD in the south east and between 45 m and 55 m AOD in the west. It slopes eastward towards the low-lying Lincolnshire coastal plain from the rounded hills of the Lincolnshire Wolds to the west.

Predominantly arable, the landscape features medium to large fields arranged in a regular pattern which is partly defined by the network of linear drains and dykes. Field enclosure is smaller in the south, particularly south west of Ashby-cum-Fenby. Hedgerows are generally well-established and low, with taller hedgerows along roads. A mature tree avenue lines part of the A18, and woodland is prominent on the upper slopes north of Irby-upon-Humber, with some linear plantations and woodland blocks in the south near East Ravendale.

Location Map



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Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB)
- Area of Great Landscape Value

Notes

1. Existing 132 kV overhead line
2. A16
3. A18
4. Wanderlust Way

Settlements include Irby-upon-Humber in the north and East Ravendale in the south, both of which retain much of their historic character, with locally prominent churches. Farmsteads and individual properties are dispersed throughout. The wooded setting of the Oaklands Hotel and Nursery and Barnoldby le Beck Park and Waithe Beck, provides visual interest and locally contain views. Busy roads such as the A18 and A46 create an urbanising effect, while rural roads to East Ravendale (B1203), Beelsby, and Hatcliffe are quieter.

A slight rise in landform at the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB) allows for panoramic views east towards Grimsby

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The area has a distinctive character and lies partly within the setting and designated area of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB). Historic associations are present in the form of the Civil War earthwork fort Scheduled Monument, the historic settlement pattern and planned enclosure landscape. The historic settlement cores are generally identifiable and contribute to a strong sense of place. The gently undulating landform in the west limits visibility while the sloping ground in the east affords panoramic views dominated by the sky. Some of the distant views across the lower lying landscape to the east include Grimsby and Immingham where landmark buildings visible on the skyline include Grimsby Dock Tower.

The condition of the landscape, although partly eroded by field amalgamation, is good with a regular field pattern defined by a network of hedgerows and drainage channels. The pattern of landscape elements is coherent with few detracting features other than some overhead lines. Ecological connectivity is good throughout the area.

Overall, the area is well served by public rights of way, including the Wanderlust Way which passes through the LCT in four separate locations.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the LCT within the Study Area is considered to be very high.

The subtle rise of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB) in views to the west

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The landscape, both within and outside the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB), suggest an increased susceptibility to visual intrusion from high-voltage electricity infrastructure. The open panoramic easterly views from the higher ground, especially those featuring Grimsby Dock Tower, are particularly vulnerable. However, this higher susceptibility is partially counterbalanced by the presence of an existing overhead line that crosses the farmland in the northern part of the LCT and by the busy roads.

The landscape around the Civil War earthwork fort Scheduled Monument, the historic settlements and planned enclosure landscape also indicate higher susceptibility.

The rural and tranquil farmland away from main roads is particularly vulnerable to new infrastructure that could disrupt its scenic quality and peaceful character.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **very high**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**.

LCT 6: High Farmland

Context

- NCA 43: Lincolnshire Wolds
- Historic LCA: Upper Wolds

Extending from the A46 south to Beesby, most of this LCT is within the Study Area and it is wholly within the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB).

Key Characteristics

- Strongly undulating landform with narrow valleys and rounded hills.
- Medium to large-scale open farmland, mainly arable with some pasture.
- Panoramic elevated views, across the flat landscape to the east, emphasise large skies.
- Strong sense of enclosure within the valley floors.
- Network of quiet roads and rural lanes defined by tall hedgerows with mature trees.
- Strong field boundary hedgerows with intermittent trees, becomes sparser further north.
- Prominent woodlands, copses, and tree belts along valley floors and slopes.
- Waithe Beck and a network of field drainage dykes.
- Sparse nucleated settlements, include several hamlets and scattered farmsteads.

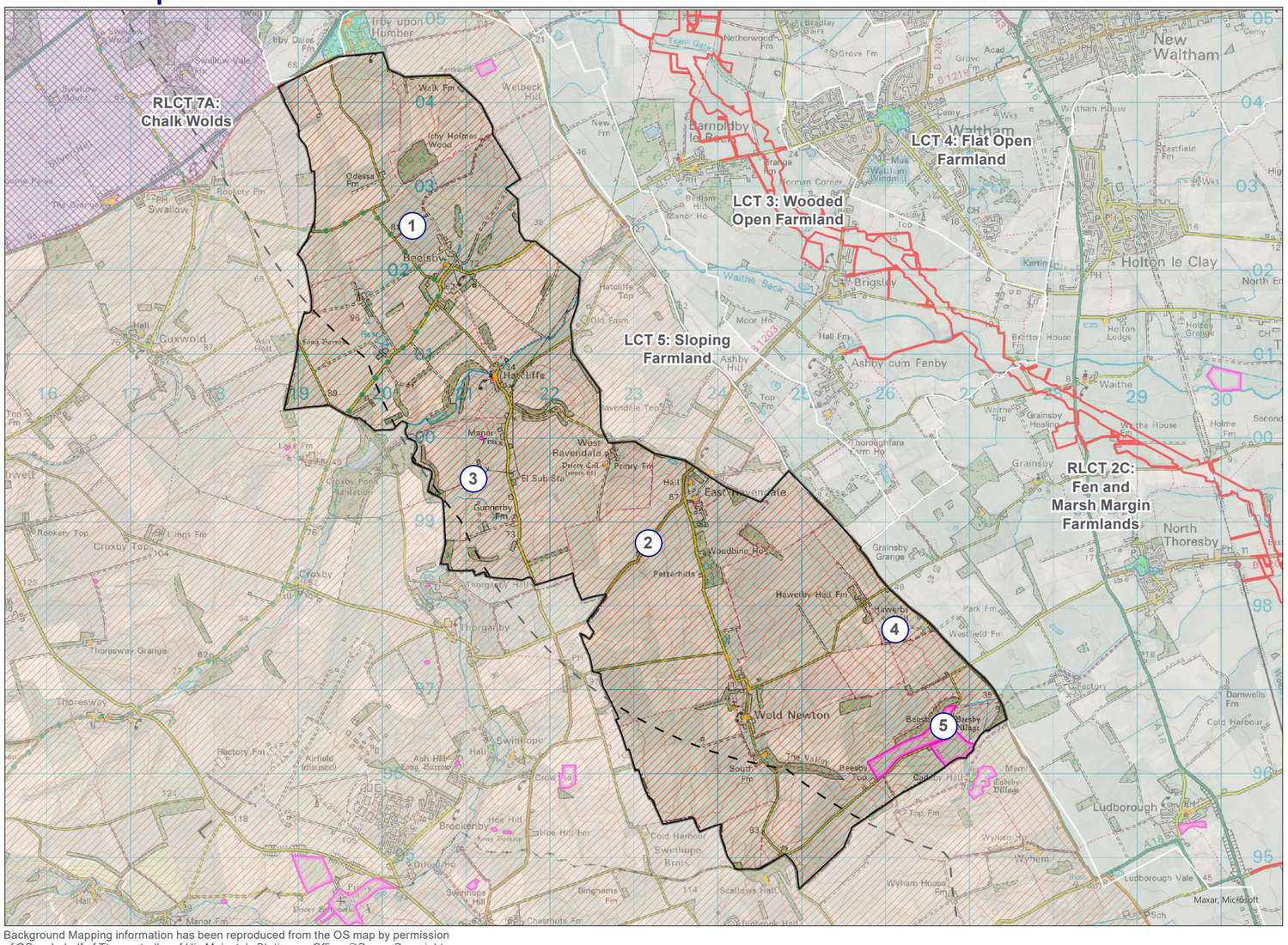
Baseline Description

This LCT is defined by its topography. Rolling hills reach elevations of 70 m AOD in the north and 115 m AOD in the south, while the lower lying land averages 35 to 40 m AOD along valley floors. Settlements are typically at 35 to 70 m AOD. Waithe Beck flows through the centre of the LCT and the area is crossed by a network of artificial drainage channels.

The agricultural landscape is mainly arable with some pastures, and a medium to large scale and regular pattern. Fields are defined by strong hedgerows and intermittent trees, becoming sparser near Beelsby and further north. High hedgerows with mature trees line the lanes, while broadleaved woodlands, copses, and tree belts, including Irby Holmes (Ancient Woodland), weave through the valleys. Although many historic boundaries have been removed, modern fields still reflect their original morphology.

This is a sparsely populated area. Nucleated hamlets, including Beelsby, Hatcliffe, East and West Ravendale, Hawerby-cum-Beesby, and Wold Newton, feature a mix of traditional and newer buildings. Dispersed

Location Map



Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB)
- Area of Great Landscape Value

Notes

1. Wanderlust Way
2. B1203
3. Existing 132 kV overhead line
4. Hawerby Hall
5. Beesby Village

farmsteads and larger properties, such as Hawerby Hall and Greenwood House in Beelsby, are also a feature. The deserted medieval village of Beesby (Scheduled Monument) occupies a large site near the LCT's southern boundary, but is not prominent in the wider landscape. The local road network is limited to the B1203 and several narrow lanes connecting the settlements.

The site of the old Beesby medieval village
Photo © John Beal (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The landscape is very rural and is entirely within the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB). Higher ground offers open panoramic views to the north east, while the valleys create a strong sense of enclosure.

The landscape is in good condition, with a coherent field pattern defined by hedgerows. Historic elements include the deserted medieval village of Beesby (Scheduled Monument), evidence of ridge and furrow typically associated with small irregular enclosures at settlement edges, and identifiable historic cores in settlements. Although many historic field boundaries have been removed, modern fields still reflect their original morphology.

Ecological connectivity is strong, contributing to the area's overall integrity. The LCT is well served by public rights of way, including the Wanderlust Way which passes through each of the hamlets and follows the lane linking East and West Ravendale with Hatcliffe.

An existing overhead line crosses the centre of the LCT near Hatcliffe and the pylons are a detracting element in the otherwise highly scenic and rural landscape. A small wind turbine associated with agricultural use is also evident, though it is of a scale generally considered appropriate to its rural setting.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the LCT within the Study Area is considered to be very high.

The elevated landform allows long distance views east towards the Lincolnshire coast
Photo © Jonathan Thacker (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The intact and recognisable Wolds farmland is entirely within the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB), indicating that the landscape is more susceptible to a new overhead line. The open panoramic views to the east from the higher ground are particularly susceptible to visual intrusion. However, this higher susceptibility is partially counterbalanced by the presence of an existing overhead line that crosses the farmland near Hatcliffe.

The existing sparse settlement pattern, characterised by nucleated hamlets, scattered farmsteads, and individual properties is very vulnerable to visual disruption as is the character and setting of the former medieval village of Beesby (Scheduled Monument) and the parkland around Hawerby Hall.

The tranquil farmland is especially vulnerable to new infrastructure that could disturb its peaceful character and scenic quality.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be very high.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **very high**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **very high**.

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East Midlands Region Landscape Character

East Midlands RLCT 2A: Settled Fens and Marshes

Context

- NCA 42: Lincolnshire Wolds
- Group 2: Fenland and Fenland Margins

This large RLCT extends from Humberston south to Tydd St Mary and forms part of the wide Lincolnshire coastal plain which runs broadly parallel but at some distance from the Lincolnshire Wolds to the west.

Key Characteristics

- Low-lying, flat, open landscape, much of which lies below sea level, relying on pumped drainage and the control of sluices to maintain its agricultural viability.
- A complex series of rivers and small streams drains eastwards towards the sea.
- Fertile soils support productive arable farming, with limited biodiversity.
- Varied enclosures, from organic Saxon to geometric field systems near the coast.
- Sparsely settled, but more developed near the coast, where seaside resorts with large static caravan areas contrast with productive farmland and remote countryside.
- Field boundaries mainly marked by dykes, sea walls, roads, and canalised rivers, with few hedgerows or woodlands.
- Long views towards the Lincolnshire Wolds and the coast.
- Detractors include wind turbines, coastal development, overhead lines and large agri-industrial farm units.

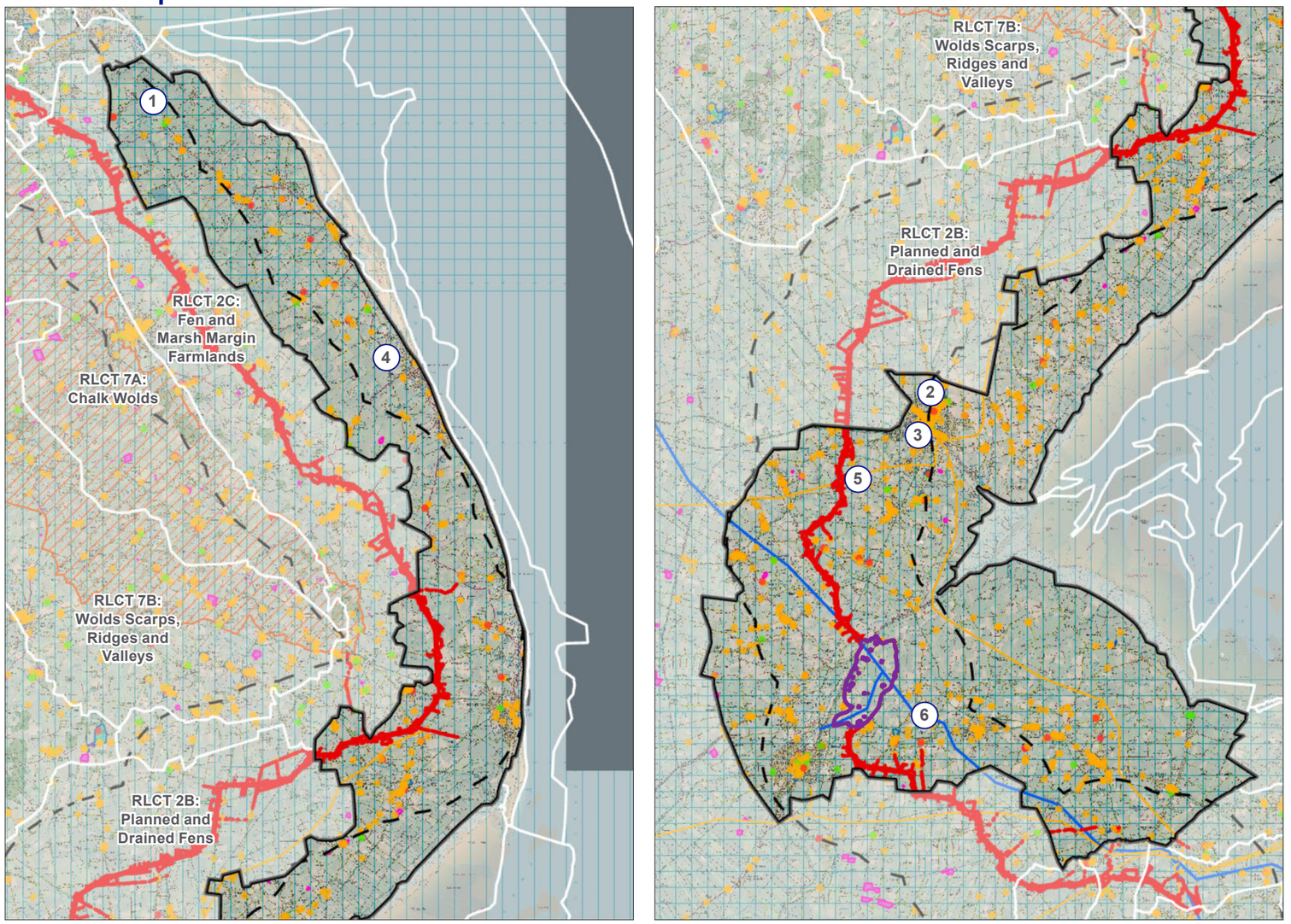
Baseline Description

Much of this RLCT lies below sea level and is dominated by intensive crop growing, with some grazed pasture near villages and sea banks. Fields are defined by a complex network of rivers, streams, and artificial drainage channels. Hedgerows are largely absent, emphasising the visual prominence of trees along roadsides, in farm belts and on village fringes.

While the landscape of this RLCT appears unified due to its simple landform, highly managed drainage system and intensive arable use, there is significant local variation in how the landscape is perceived. South of Boston, the ancient ‘Townlands’ offer a more intimate, small-scale landscape with winding lanes, small settlements, historic churches, and remnants of grasslands, reflecting over a thousand years of continuous settlement. This contrasts sharply with the large, geometric fields and industrial-scale farm complexes found elsewhere.

The coastal fringe north of Boston, is well settled, with resort towns lincluding Skegness and Mablethorpe marked by large clusters of static

Location Map



Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB)
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone

Notes

1. Tetney Blow Wells SSSI
2. Greenwich Meridian Trail
3. St Botolph's Church (Boston)
4. A1031 and A1104
5. Existing 132 kV overhead line
6. Existing 400 kV overhead line

caravans which in places extend into the Study Area. In contrast, much of the inland area remains sparsely populated, creating a sense of remoteness, where vast skies and featureless horizons enhance the sense of isolation.

Much of the landscape is very open, offering expansive views towards low-lying horizons and expansive skies, shaped by changing weather patterns. Tree belts, although few, often frame and foreshorten these views, while church spires and small woodlands punctuate the skyline. Overhead lines are a prominent skyline element particularly south of Boston, but do not diminish the landscape's prevailing sense of remoteness.

To the north of the RLCT, views west extend across the flat landscape towards the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB) which is visible on the skyline

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The organic pattern of enclosure boundaries and roads in the 'Townlands' offers a tangible connection to the origins of this well-settled agricultural landscape. Ancient villages and remote hamlets mark the early stages of drainage, enclosure, and settlement, which later developed into the more structured, geometric patterns characteristic of 19th and 20th-century enclosures along the coast. The area is rich in archaeological remains, including prehistoric sites, ridge and furrow patterns, and abandoned settlements, all of which enhance the RLCT's character.

Intensive agriculture and coastal development has resulted in only limited retention of semi-natural habitats, but some of the RLCT (outside the Study Area) is covered by internationally important coastal and marine habitat associated with the Humber Estuary and the Wash. Within the Study Area, ecological value is associated with the local wildlife sites such as Covenham Reservoir, Tetney Flood, Great Eau, and Manby Wetlands.

Tetney Blow Wells SSSI and the many Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas dispersed throughout the LCT add historic interest.

Public rights of way are limited, although they include the Greenwich Meridian Trail to the north. Most recreational opportunities are found outside the Study Area and are focused on the coastal resorts.

To the south of the RLCT, overhead lines become a more common feature, fields are defined by a network of ditches

Based on the above and the judgements made against the indicators listed in the Table A below, particularly the 'Townlands', the value of the RCLT within the Study Area is considered to be medium.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

This flat, low-lying landscape offers long and often uninterrupted vistas towards the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB) and local landmarks, including churches and historic windmills. These views are particularly vulnerable to visual intrusion as are views of 'Boston Stump', the iconic octagonal medieval tower of St Botolph's Church in Boston, which is widely visible on the local skyline.

The rural farmland away from the urban settlements and major transport corridors, has a sense of tranquillity and isolation, indicating a higher level of susceptibility.

The landscape's perceptual qualities are affected by urban elements, including the busy A1031 and A1104 corridors, as well as the presence of wind farms. Overhead power lines and pylons are also prominent, particularly south of Boston. These existing detractors have already diminished the area's scenic quality and rural character, thus reducing its susceptibility to further change from a new overhead line.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the RLCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table C, the susceptibility of the RLCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV substation is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **medium**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table C: Landscape Susceptibility to a Substation

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Horlock Rule 4)	
Landcover pattern	
Field pattern, scale and enclosure	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV substation is judged to be **medium**.

East Midlands RLCT 2B: Planned and Drained Fens

Context

- NCA 46: The Fens
- Group 2: Fenland and Fenland Margins

The north eastern and south eastern parts of this large RLCT lie within the Study Area.

Key Characteristics

- A consistently low-lying flat landscape with a distinct fenland character.
- Wide, uninterrupted views to distant horizons.
- Historic patterns of 18th and 19th-century enclosure reflect a complex history of drainage and land reclamation.
- Much of the area lies at or below sea level, with the few settlements located on slightly higher ground.
- Rich agricultural use, with root crops, bulbs, vegetables, and glasshouses, brings seasonal variations in colour and texture.
- The expansive, sparsely populated areas create a sense of remoteness, with seasonal bursts of agricultural activity.

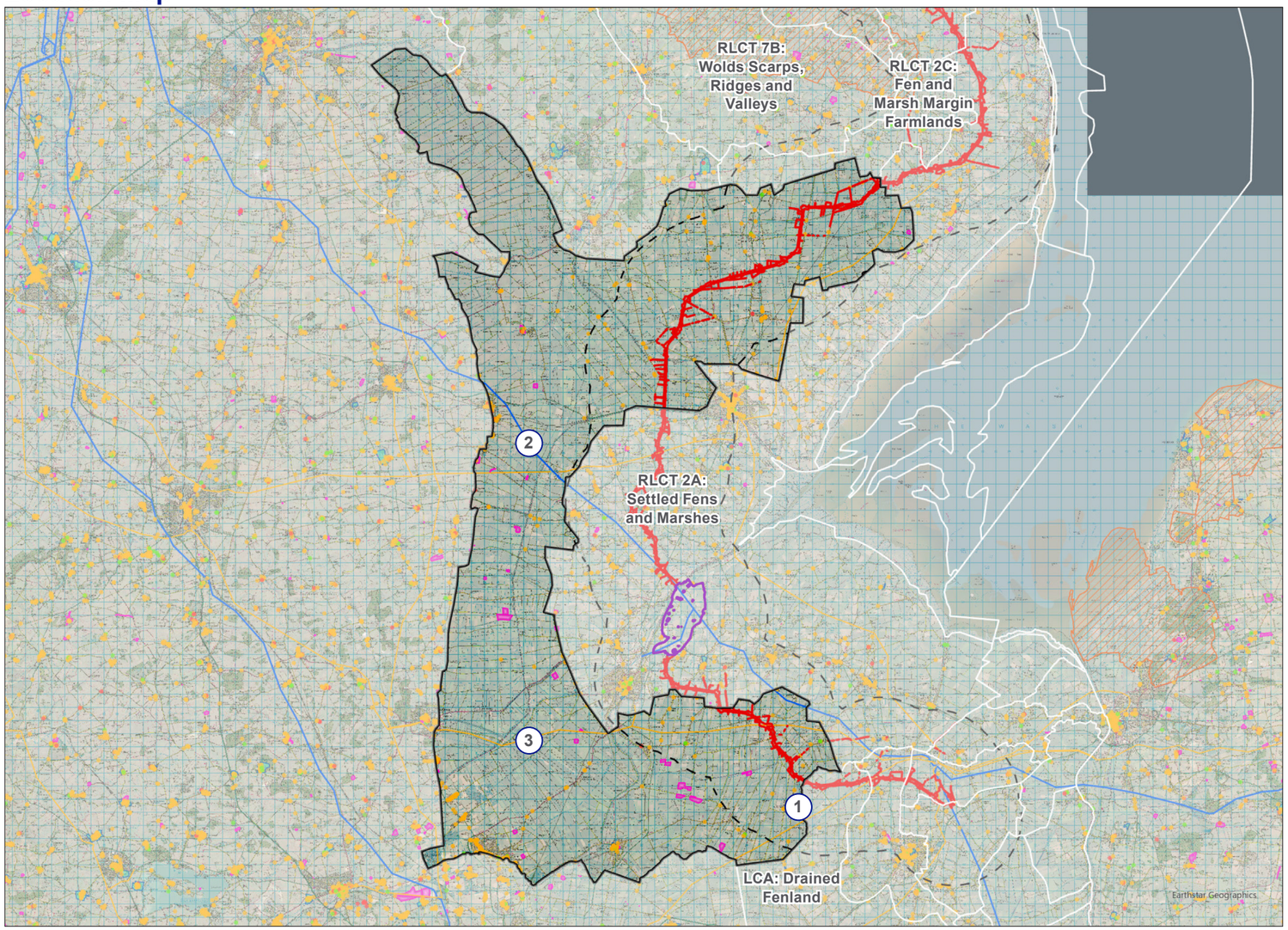
Baseline Description

Low-lying terrain, much of it below sea level, defines this landscape, which is further characterised by a rigid geometry of drains, dykes, roads, and geometric fields. Settlement is sparse, contributing to a strong sense of remoteness and isolation. The history of these fens and carrlands is complex, with some areas drained and settled relatively recently, while others exhibit ancient patterns of enclosure dating back in places to the Saxon period. Despite this, the landscape's rectilinear pattern of parliamentary enclosures, roads, and limited settlement creates visual cohesion. Settlements are sparsely dispersed through the RLCT, featuring isolated farms and linear villages, predominantly of brick buildings with tile roofs, adding to the uniformity.

Tree cover is minimal, mostly limited to geometric shelter belts and plantations near field boundaries and farmsteads.

The landscape is one of wide panoramas, distant horizons and vast skies. Isolated farmsteads are often the only built elements in wide areas of arable farmland and as such contribute to the perceived remoteness and tranquillity of some areas, although this is significantly reduced at harvest time. Wind turbines and overhead lines are a prominent skyline element particularly south of Boston, but do not diminish the landscape's prevailing sense of scale and remoteness.

Location Map



Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone
- National Landscape (AONB)

Notes

1. Lady Nunn's Old Eau
2. Existing 400 kV overhead line
3. Existing 132 kV overhead line

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The RLCT has a strong sense of place and local identity but offers limited historic interest. While remnants of ancient drove roads and evidence of late Saxon and medieval strip enclosures exist, particularly on the Lincolnshire fens, the landscape is dominated by medium to large rectilinear fields, mostly shaped by artificial drainage since the 17th-century. This pattern is further reinforced by the rigid geometry of later parliamentary enclosures from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Woodlands are scarce, and intensive agriculture has significantly reduced semi-natural habitats. However, fragmented reed beds and grasslands along major drains and rivers, such as the Glen and Idle, retain some biodiversity value amidst the intensively managed farmland.

To the north of the RLCT, views west extend across the flat landscape towards the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB) which is visible on the skyline

Although settlement is sparse, piecemeal development along main roads is gradually diminishing the sense of remoteness and causing visual disruption. Light industrial buildings, such as garages and workshops, interrupt the landscape. In the more developed areas, views become enclosed, weakening the landscape's strong, recognisable identity. There is also a proliferation of new large-scale agricultural buildings, including storage and processing facilities for energy crops, such as fast growing and tall Miscanthus spp. and short rotation coppice.

Public rights of way are limited but include the Cross Britain Way and Macmillan Way.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape is considered to be medium.

Open views across the flat landscape near Boston, where the tower at St Botolph's Church in Boston ('Boston Stump') is often visible on the skyline

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The area's distinctive fenland character is defined by its flat landform and expansive skies, which typically provide unobstructed visibility, occasionally interrupted by shelterbelts and small plantations. This openness indicates higher susceptibility to high-voltage electricity infrastructure, especially overhead lines. However, this is a large-scale, utilitarian and man-made landscape already affected by intensive farming practices and renewable energy crops, resulting in a proliferation of large farm units. Wind energy schemes are a common feature of the landscape and overhead lines are also prominent particularly south of Boston.

Views to local landmarks, such as churches and historic windmills are particularly susceptible to visual intrusion as are views of 'Boston Stump', the iconic octagonal medieval tower of St Botolph's Church in Boston, which is widely visible on the local skyline.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the RLCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **medium**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

East Midlands RLCT 2C: Fen and Marsh Margin Farmlands

Context

- NCA 42: Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes
- Group 2: Fenland and Fenland Margins

This long RLCT extends from New Waltham south to Little Steeping and Irby in the Marsh. All of the LCT is within the Study Area and much of it is within the setting of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB).

Key Characteristics

- A transitional landscape, which is with higher ground to the west and coastal plain to the east.
- Broad, east-facing terrain, gently undulating due to streams and drains flowing off the Wolds.
- Small-scale rural landscape of arable fields with pasture in valley floors.
- Managed hedgerows, woodlands, copses, and plantations create a well-treed,and in places intimate character.
- A network of winding rural roads connects nucleated villages at route junctions.
- Medieval moated sites, relic ridge and furrow, and ancient road networks add historic interest.

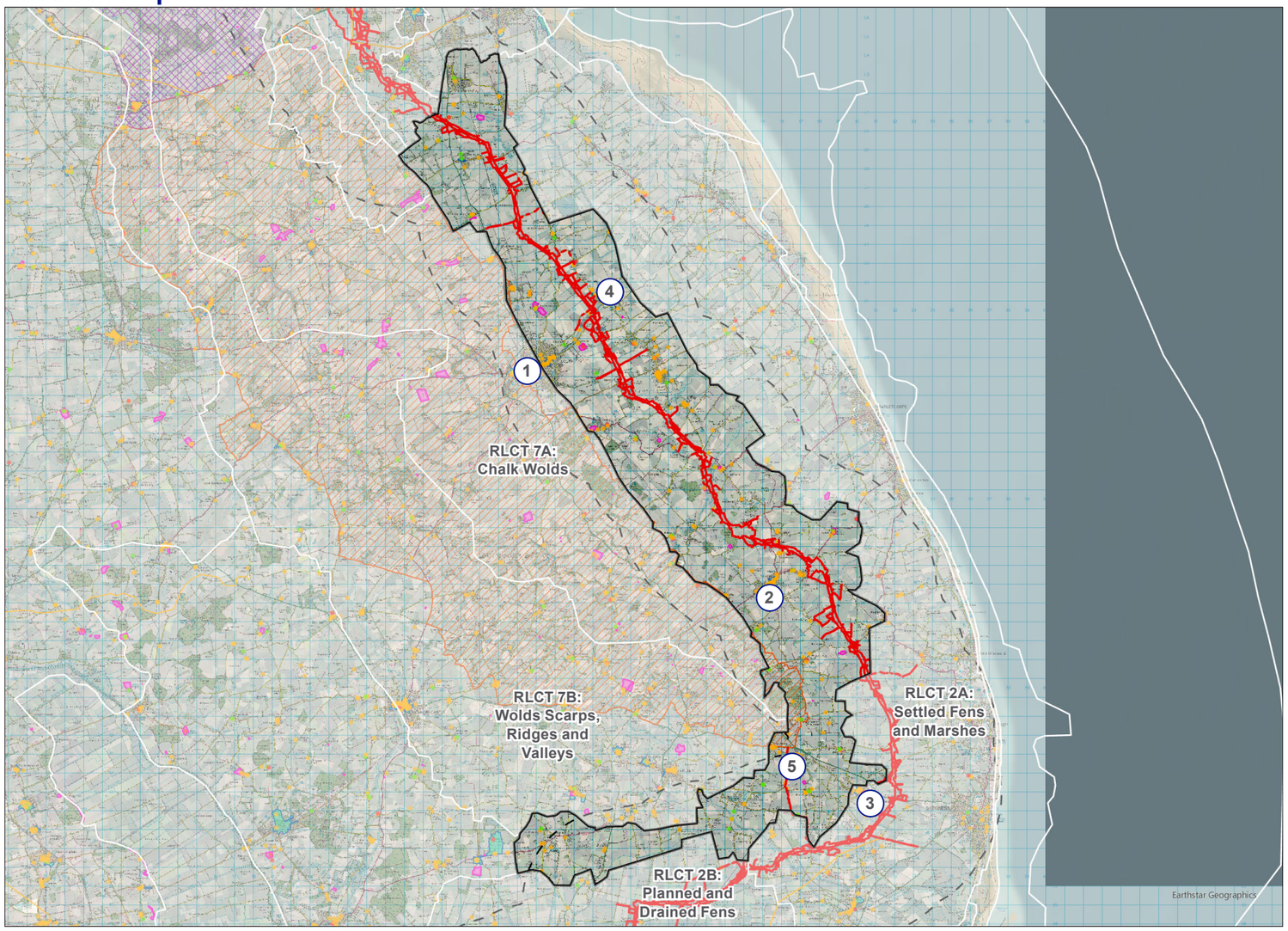
Baseline Description

This RLCT displays characteristic features of both the fens and settled marshes, with the higher ground of the Wolds to the west but is not typical of either. Rivers and streams flowing off the Wolds create softly undulating, eastward-sloping terrain, typically between 30 and 10 m AOD. The watercourses follow natural, sinuous paths, contrasting with the straightened channels of the coastal plain to the east. Although small in scale and not always highly visible, their presence is often indicated by lines of alder and willow trees, and patches of wet woodland.

The farmland displays a patchwork of medium-sized arable fields and pastures, bordered by managed hedgerows and ditches, with frequent hedgerow trees. Woodlands, copses, and plantations are scattered throughout. An ancient network of winding roads links nucleated, often historic villages typically located at the junction of north-south and east-west routes. While these nucleated villages resemble those in the Wolds to the west, the linear hamlets and village extensions along main roads reflect the influence of the fens, emphasising the landscape's transitional nature.

The landscape has a distinctly rural character, offering a range of views. In areas with undulating landforms and woodlands, views are often foreshortened, giving a more intimate, enclosed feel, particularly near the Wolds. Conversely, in areas bordering the open fens, expansive, long-

Location Map



Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB)
- Area of Great Landscape Value

Notes

1. Louth
2. Alford
3. Burgh le Marsh
4. Louth Canal
5. Gunby Hall

distance panoramic views are more frequent, creating a sense of openness.

The landscape retains a peaceful, rural character, although it is more active compared to the remote fens, marshes, or sparsely populated uplands of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The area around Louth, in particular, has seen increased activity due to recent growth, which has begun to affect the rural character and setting of the town.

Gunby Hall
Photo © Bob Cantwell (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Key Landscape Value Attributes

This RLCT borders the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB) and displays a well-preserved historic character. While many hedgerows date from the 18th and 19th-century parliamentary enclosures, winding roads, parish boundaries, and small stone villages reflect older settlement patterns. Ridge and furrow remnants and medieval defensive sites emphasise the landscape's historic strategic importance. Ancient road networks connect nucleated villages, often located at the junctions of historic routeways.

Churches and old stone buildings, some with Saxon and Norse names, add to the sense of long-standing settlement. Historic sites like Gunby Hall, Well Hall Park, Alford Conservation Area, and 16 Scheduled Monuments further enhance its heritage value.

Widespread agricultural improvement has left limited semi-natural habitats, although there are sizable areas of ancient woodland, including Legbourne Wood Muckton Wood, Authorpe Scrub, Hall Wood, Withern Wood, Swinn Wood, Tothill/Claythorpe Woods, and Hornby/Mother Woods, Rigsby Wood and Welton Low Wood. Linear areas of calcareous grassland are found on railway embankments and dismantled railway lines. Dense, well-managed hedgerows, drains and dykes also contribute to local biodiversity, creating valuable habitat networks in this otherwise highly managed agricultural landscape. Local Nature Reserves, including Great Eau and Manby Wetlands and Local Wildlife Sites, such as Tothill Wood, Manby Wetlands, and Rigsby Wood, further enhance the ecological value of the RLCT.

View west along the Louth Canal, with the spire of St James Church visible above the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB) on the skyline

The public rights of way network, which includes the Greenwich Meridian Trail, Lincolnshire Wolds Way, Lindsey Loop, provides good access throughout the RLCT.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape is considered to be high.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The area's transitional rural character derives from the combination of landscape elements and features associated with both the Lincolnshire Wolds and the fenlands. Undulating landforms and woodlands often foreshorten views, while the more open areas afford expansive views towards the fens to the south east and Wolds to the north. In these open spaces, wind turbines may be visible on the distant skyline but do not detract from the rural and scenic qualities of this RLCT. However, these views are vulnerable to visual intrusion from high-voltage electricity infrastructure. Views towards notable landmarks such as St James Church spire in Louth are particularly susceptible.

The Scheduled Monuments and historic settlements also indicate higher susceptibility.

The rural and tranquil farmland away from Louth and the main roads is especially susceptible to new infrastructure that could disrupt its scenic quality and peaceful character.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the RLCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be high.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table C, the susceptibility of the RLCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV substation is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value (Lower ⟷ Higher)
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **high**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility (Lower ⟷ Higher)
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **high**.

Table C: Landscape Susceptibility to a Substation

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility (Lower ⟷ Higher)
Landform (Horlock Rule 4)	
Landcover pattern	
Field pattern, scale and enclosure	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV substation is judged to be **medium**.

East Midlands RLCT 7a: Chalk Wolds

Context

- NCA 42: Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes
- NCA 43: Lincolnshire Wolds
- Group 7: Chalk Wolds

This RLCT extends from Brocklesby west of Grimsby south to Claxby St Andrew. Its eastern edge is within the Study Area and is also within the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB).

Key Characteristics

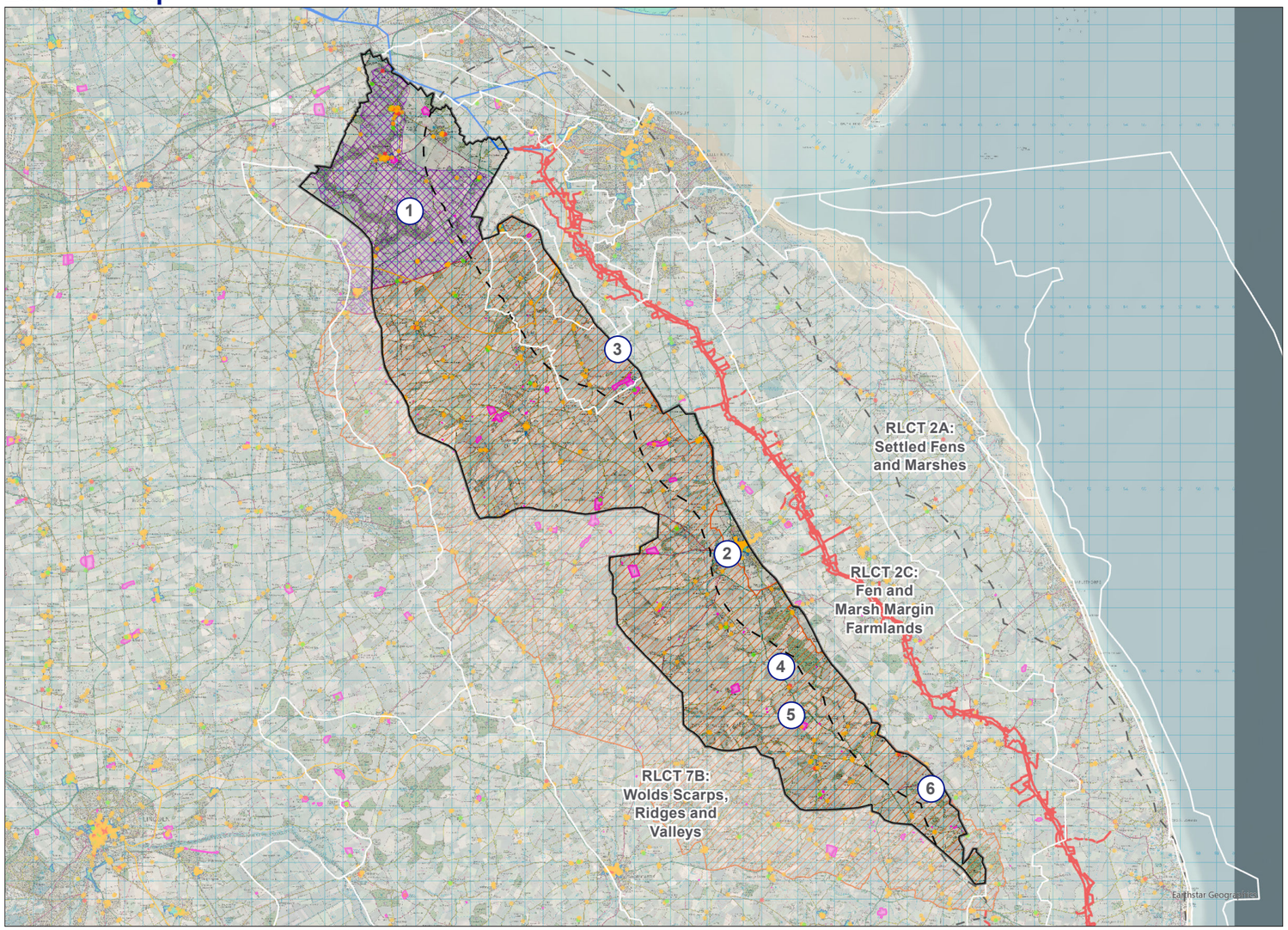
- Elevated, gently dipping chalk plateau dissected by valleys, including dry valleys, forming a rolling landscape.
- Huge expanses of field and sky across the plateau top with extensive views emphasising the large scale of the landscape.
- Predominantly arable, but some pasture fields with rectilinear patterns and clipped hawthorn hedgerows.
- Changing crop patterns on the plateau contrast with lush pastures and wooded slopes in the secluded valleys.
- Sparse woodland on the plateau top, limited to shelter belts and beech clumps, with more woodlands on steeper slopes and valleys.
- Sparse settlement largely confined to historic villages in the valleys and along spring-line.
- Many small disused chalk quarries.
- Plateau crossed by former drove roads with wide, herb-rich grassland verges.
- Rich in archaeological features, including ancient ridge-top roads, prehistoric barrows, deserted medieval villages, and east-west salters' roads, reflecting long-term occupation.

Baseline Description

This RLCT is characterised by its distinctive Wolds landscape, with an open, elevated rolling plateau offering sweeping views across the Lincolnshire coastal plain. The intensively managed arable land displays changing field and cropping patterns, while secluded valleys with steeper slopes dissect the plateau's eastern edge. Woodland is sparse on the plateau, limited to small beech clumps, but the valleys feature lush vegetation and woodlands. Settlements are dispersed, with small, nucleated villages in wooded valleys, often highlighted by landmark church towers and spires. Scattered farms and occasional isolated dwellings define the plateau tops.

A rich cultural heritage is signified by the wealth of archaeological and historic landscape features, including visible remnants of ancient tumuli

Location Map



Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB)
- Area of Great Landscape Value

Notes

1. Great Limber and Chalk Wolds Estates
2. Louth
3. A18
4. A16
5. South Ormsby Park
6. Well Hall Park

and deserted medieval villages. Ancient routeways and former drove roads, marked by wide herb-rich verges and species-rich hedgerows, also cross the plateau. Recent cultural and social changes have introduced new features, notably disused wartime airfields, such as Binbrook, Kelstern, which utilised the flat landform and strategic location.

Within the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB), views are highly scenic

To the east of the high Wolds, glacial till deposits cover the chalk, forming a gently sloping ridge that dips eastward, merging with the RLCT 2A: Fen and Marsh Fringe Farmlands. This area, the most heavily wooded part of the Wolds, features woodland blocks interspersed with arable fields and pastures. It has a deeply rural, isolated quality.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The landscape within this RLCT has an intact and recognisable Wolds character with a distinctive landscape rhythm created by the open rolling plateau and large arable fields, dissected by secluded valleys. Historic villages built from local stone and many archaeological features, including prehistoric long and round barrows, deserted or shrunken medieval settlements and ancient west-east lanes, reflecting long-term human occupation. Bluestone Heath Road and Barton Street follow ancient trackways and afford elevated panoramic views out across the Lincolnshire coastal plain. While there are no large parklands, there are some notable smaller estates, often featuring modest Tudor or Georgian country houses, with Victorian farmsteads and cottages for farm workers. Designated sites include 11 Scheduled Monuments, dispersed throughout the Study Area. Registered Parks and Gardens, include South Ormsby Park and Well Hall Park.

Woodland is limited particularly to the north, but there are occasional shelterbelts, hedgerow trees and scattered beech clumps. The largest woodlands are in the south east along the edge of the Wolds. Ancient woodland is rare although there are good examples at Haughan/Burkwell Woods, Maltby Wood, and Welton Low Wood. Designated sites including South Thoresby Warren Local Nature Reserve, Claxby Chalk Pit SSSI, Skendleby Psalter Banks SSSI, Calceby Marsh SSSI, Swaby Valley SSSI, Swallow Wold SSSI, further enhance the ecological importance of this RLCT.

Grasslands on steep slopes, in disused quarries, and on valley bottoms are important wildlife habitats, while broad grass verges up to 20 m on some roads and historical tracks provide valuable species-rich linear habitat. Some of the verges are thought to be remnants of pre-enclosure pastures.

The Wolds with its network of quiet lanes and public rights of way, provides good connectivity across the landscape and includes the Lindsey Loop, Greenwich Meridian Trail, Johnson Silver Lincs Way, and National Cycle Network Route 1.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape is considered to be very high.

The elevated landform allows long distance views east across the Lincolnshire coastal plain

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The open panoramic views from the higher ground including the views afforded from Bluestone Heath Road and Barton Street indicate higher susceptibility to high voltage electricity infrastructure. Views towards notable landmarks such as St James Church spire in Louth are particularly susceptible to visual intrusion.

The landscape of the Wolds is enriched by numerous archaeological features, reflecting a deep sense of continuity and the extensive history of human settlement and movement in the area. The tranquil, long-established rural landscape is particularly vulnerable to visual disruption from pylons. Such developments could diminish the scenic quality and undermine the landscape's sense of remoteness and isolation.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the RLCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be very high.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **very high**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **very high**.

East Midlands RLCT 7b: Wolds Scarps, Ridges and Valleys

Context

- NCA 43: Lincolnshire Wolds
- Group 7: Chalk Wolds

Most of this RLCT is located on the western side of the Lincolnshire Wolds, with only the very small part extending into the Study Area between Candlesby and West Keal to the south of Spilsby. The Eastern edge of the RLCT falls within the boundary of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB).

Key Characteristics

- Transitional, south east facing landscape between the Lincolnshire Wolds to the north and fenland to the south east.
- Varied landform, typically ranging from 15 to 30 m AOD, rising above 90 m AOD at Marden Hill north of East Keal, with steep slopes near West Keal, East Keal, and Toynton All Saints.
- The River Lymn and small stream valleys with important alder carrs add to the landform's complexity and habitat value.
- Mix of small to large, often rectilinear, arable fields, with smaller irregular fields around villages.
- Settled landscape with historic villages along the spring line.
- Well-maintained hedgerows, woodlands, carrs, and copses contribute to an intimate, well-treed landscape.
- Elevated areas offer expansive views across the fens to the south east and more limited views to the crest of the Wolds to the north.

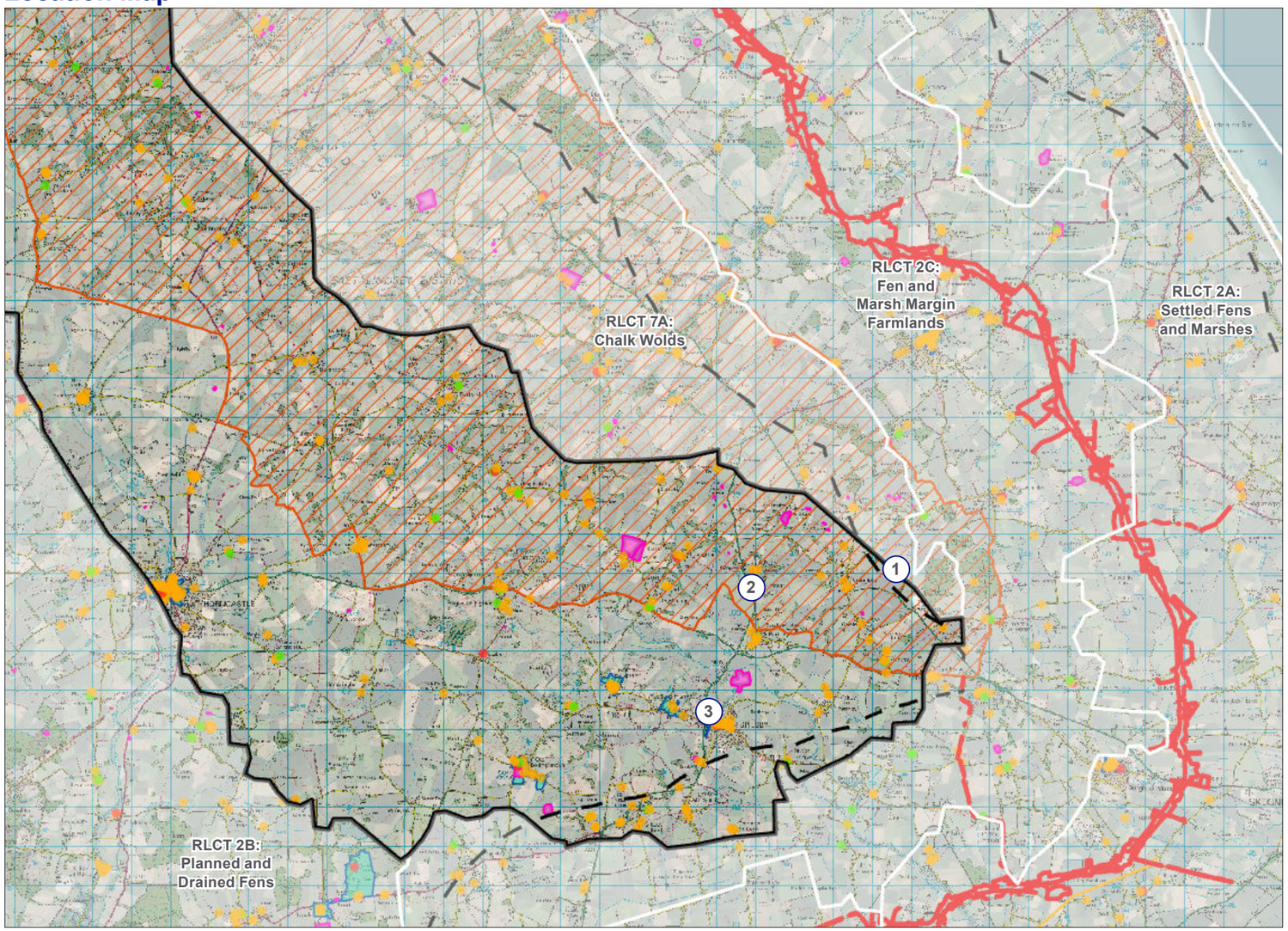
Baseline Description

The small part of this RLCT within the Study Area displays a more intricate landform and terrain than much of the RLCT. This complexity arises from the exposure of Lower Cretaceous and Upper Jurassic rocks, together with glacial drift deposits. The varying characteristics and erosional patterns of these rock formations, combined with intermittent drift materials, result in a convoluted and angular landscape. This creates prominent ridges, and outliers of resistant rock formations, such as Marden Hill near West Keal. These are dissected by the valleys of watercourses including the River Lymn east of Halton Holegate and an unnamed stream which flows north to south between East Keal and Toynton All Saints.

The patchwork of arable fields and pastures, woodland, hedgerows, country estates and parkland, rivers and streams enhances the perception of a quiet and rural area that has undergone little change over recent centuries.

It is a settled landscape where historic villages such as West Keal, East Keal, Toynton All Saints, and Halton Holgate are found at the foot of the

Location Map



Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits
- Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB)

Notes

1. Bluestone Heath Road
2. A16
3. Spilsby

scarp along the spring line.

Roads, including the A155, A16, and B1195, carry more traffic, while local lanes remain quieter, maintaining the rural character of the landscape.

While the higher parts of the RLCT, for example Marden Hill, afford expansive views out across the lower lying fens, the intricate landform and valleys contribute to a more varied and occasionally enclosed landscape.

Long distance views from the southern end of Bluestone Heath Road within the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (AONB)

Key Landscape Value Attributes

As with the Chalk Wolds, the chalk scenery of the Wolds Scarps, Ridges and Valleys offers high geodiversity interest with a variety of geomorphological features and quarries.

Similar to the Wolds to the north, the RLCT reflects a long history of human occupation dating back to prehistoric times, with notable Mesolithic remains located along the Lymn Valley. While parliamentary enclosures have influenced some of the RLCT within the Study Area, particularly to the east, the landscape around the villages, has preserved its original character. This includes smaller, irregular fields, winding roads, and sunken lanes, which create a more intimate and enclosed landscape, contributing to the overall impression of a tranquil rural setting. There are over 30 Scheduled Monuments in the RLCT which add further archaeological value.

The area demonstrates strong ecological integrity, with well-connected hedgerows and woodlands. Keal Carr SSSI and Jenkins Carr SSSI are situated along an unnamed stream between East Keal and Toynton All Saints. These SSSI represent some of the finest remaining examples of alder carrs in the southern Wolds, thriving in valleys where streams have eroded through the soft Spilsby Sandstone into the Kimmeridge Clay, resulting in permanently wet ground.

Recreational use is an important characteristic of this RLCT and the many public rights of way include the Lindsey Loop.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape is considered to be high.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The open panoramic views from the higher ground including the views afforded from Bluestone Heath Road which is on the boundary with RLCT 7A: Chalk Wolds indicate higher susceptibility to high voltage electricity infrastructure.

The Wolds landscape is rich with archaeological features that highlight the area's deep continuity and extensive history of human settlement and movement. This tranquil, long-established rural environment is particularly susceptible to visual disruption from new high-voltage electricity infrastructure. Such developments could detract from the scenic quality and compromise the landscape's sense of remoteness and isolation.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the RLCT within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be very high.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **high**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **very high**.

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Fenland Landscape Character

Fenland District LCA: The Fens

Context

- NCA 46: The Fens

The northern part of this LCA is within the Study Area and extends between Tydd St Giles and Parson Drove. Its western edge is defined by the jurisdiction boundary of Fenland District Council.

Key Characteristics

- Expansive, flat landscape with broad, open views and vast skies.
- Rectilinear field pattern defined by a network of artificial drainage channels, including North Level Main Drain.
- Intensive arable farming dominates, with large farm units dispersed across the landscape, often highlighted by tree shelterbelts.
- Sparse woodland cover, with small woodland blocks, occasional roadside avenues, isolated field trees, and shelterbelts.
- Largely unsettled, featuring linear villages and scattered properties, often protected by shelterbelts.
- Long, straight roads elevated above the surrounding fields.
- The landscape offers a strong sense of rural remoteness and tranquillity.
- Vertical elements include wind turbines and pylons.

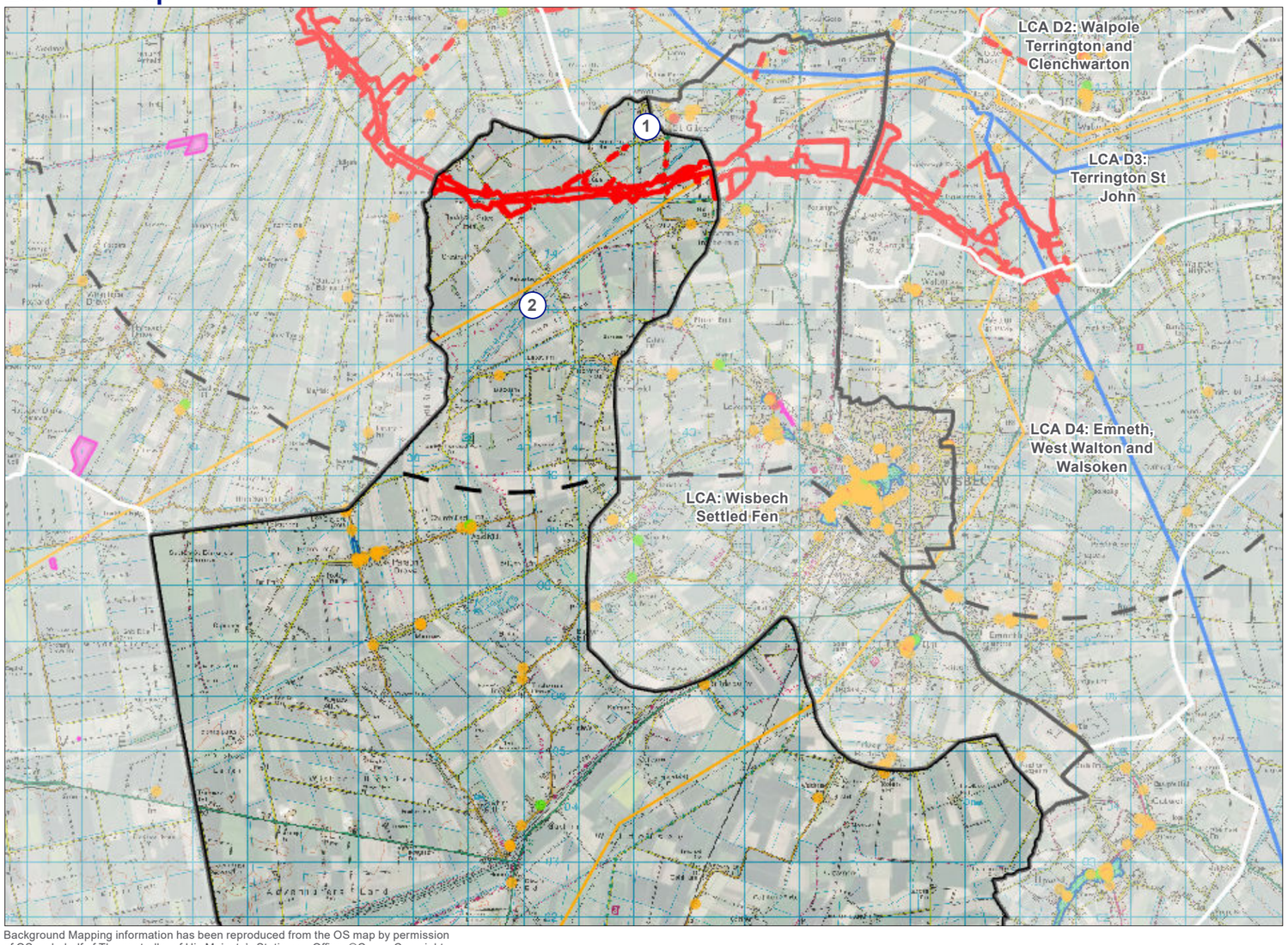
Baseline Description

The defining characteristic of this landscape is its low-lying terrain, with much of it situated below sea level. The rigid geometry of expansive rectilinear fields, defined by linear drains and dykes and straight roads on low embankment, contributes to its distinct and easily recognisable fenland character. Small bridges crossing the larger drains are also a distinctive element, further contributing to sense of place.

Settlement includes the villages of Parson Drove, Gorefield, and Tydd St. Giles. These communities retain elements of their historic character, featuring local building materials, although, 20th-century ribbon development has developed along the roads leading out of these villages.

Tree cover is minimal, mostly confined to geometric shelterbelts and rows of poplars near field boundaries and farmsteads. The landscape is dominated by vast skies, wide panoramas, and distant horizons. Isolated farmsteads are often the only structures across wide areas of farmland, adding to the sense of remoteness and tranquillity in some areas. However, this tranquillity is reduced during harvest seasons when large groups of seasonal labourers work the fields. The highly productive land is well-suited to intensive modern arable agriculture and leaves only very limited areas of biodiversity interest, which gives the area a distinctly productive and functional quality.

Location Map



Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits

Notes

1. Tydd St Giles
2. North Level Main Drain

An overhead line crosses the area but does not detract from the landscape's prevailing sense of isolation and openness.

Existing overhead lines are a feature in views

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The landscape has an intact and recognisable fenland character of large, flat geometric arable fields bordered by a network of linear drains and dykes.

The settlement pattern retains some of its historic character, with visible use of local building materials although there has been 20th century ribbon development along many of the roads.

There are no nature conservation designations. Some reed beds and grasslands along the larger drains have biodiversity value, although remaining habitats are highly fragmented and surrounded by intensively managed farmland.

There is also little of visible historic importance within the LCT other than the surviving 18th-century field patterns, reflected in the drainage patterns, even where fields have been amalgamated.

The public right of way network is relatively sparse but includes a section of National Cycle Network Route 1.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape is considered to be medium.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The landscape has an intact and recognisable fenland character with a distinctive pattern of large geometric arable fields bordered by a network of inconspicuous drains and dykes that contributes to an overall sense of openness and isolation. While the extent of artificial drainage somewhat diminishes perceptions of naturalness, the absence of significant settlement contributes to a sense of relative remoteness.

High levels of intervisibility across the open landscape and the prominence of landmark churches in views, suggest an increased susceptibility to visual intrusion. However, this higher susceptibility is partially counterbalanced by the presence of an existing overhead line that crosses the farmland between Tydd St. Giles and Gorefield, although the visual influence of the pylons is lessened by the large scale of the landscape.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCA within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **medium**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Fenland District LCA: Wisbech Settled Fen

Context

- LCT: Settled Fen
- NCA 46: The Fens

This LCA extends around the three sides of Wisbech where it forms part of the settled fens, a landscape where the edge of Wisbech, villages, large houses, individual farms and properties are generally in view across the open farmland. North of Wisbech, the River Nene and the County boundary form the eastern boundary of the LCA.

Key Characteristics

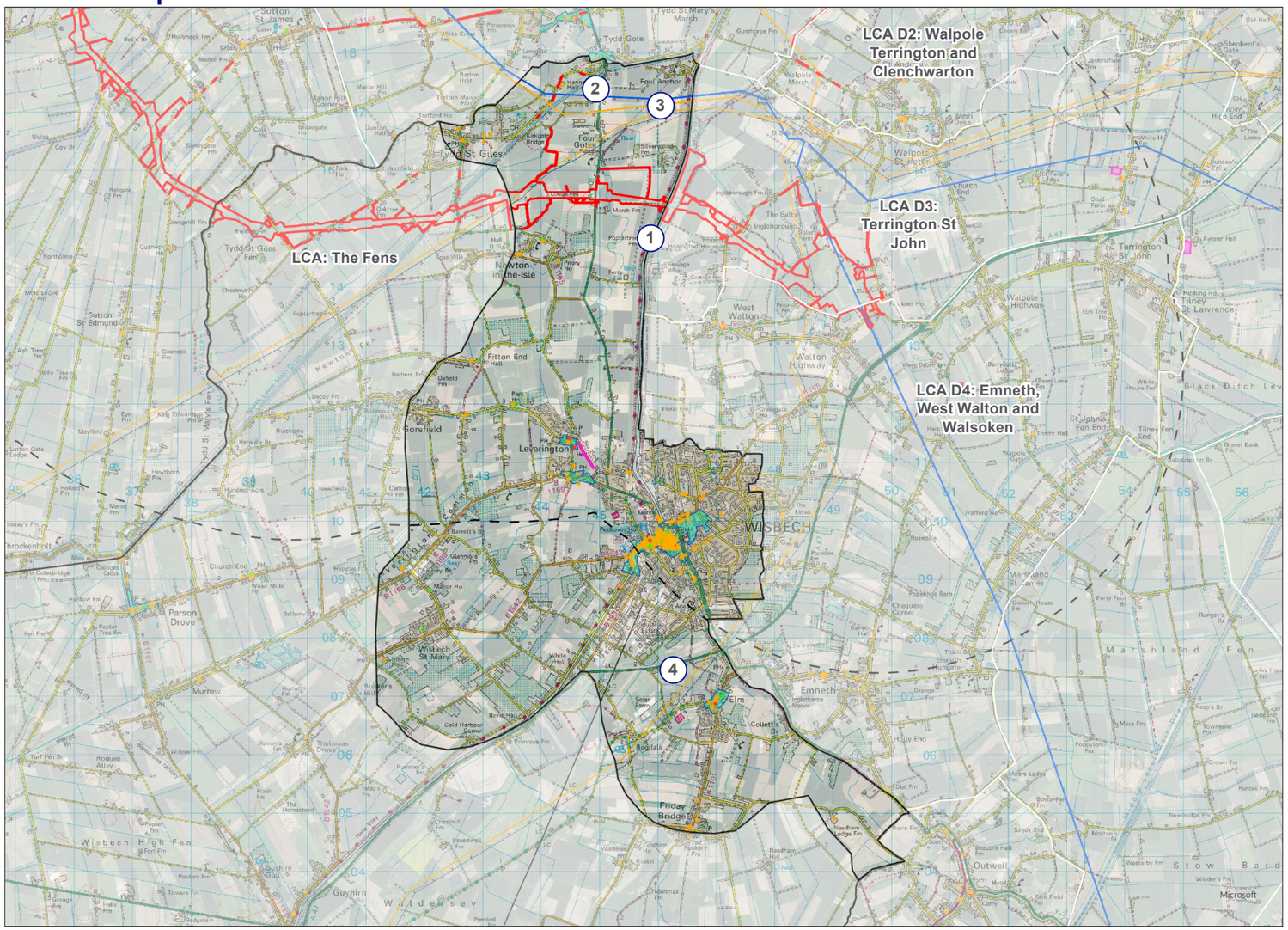
- Open and intensively farmed arable landscape to the west of the River Nene, with geometric arable fields divided by a network of linear drains and dykes.
- Navigable River Nene with its associated ships, port and lifting equipment.
- West of Wisbech the landscape is well-settled with a patchwork of arable fields, orchards and occasional small pastures.
- Commercial land uses increase towards the edge of Wisbech.
- West of Wisbech, 20th century ribbon development is common along the network of winding local roads.
- Orchards, although declining, are common and enclosed by shelterbelts of pollarded poplars and alders which enclose and frame views.
- The skyline can appear cluttered due to the varied heights and forms of vertical elements.
- Overhead lines are prominent in the northern part of the LCA.

Baseline Description

In the northern part of the LCA, the landscape to the west of the River Nene comprises large-scale, open arable farmland with panoramic views and wide horizons. Geometric fields are divided by linear drains and dykes and field size is variable with smaller fields defining settlement edges.

West of Wisbech, the landscape displays a patchwork of smaller scale arable fields, orchards, and occasional small pastures, reflecting a well-settled rural environment. Settlement includes the villages of Leverington, Fitton End, Newton-in-the Isle and Four Gotes as well as the historic town of Wisbech. These are connected by a combination of straight main roads and secondary roads with an irregular layout along which 20th century ribbon development is common. The irregular road layout, together with mature village trees and orchards bordered by poplar or hawthorn shelterbelts, creates a distinctive, relatively enclosed landscape.

Location Map



Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits

Notes

1. River Nene
2. Existing 400 kV overhead line
3. Existing 132 kV overhead lines
4. A47

Orchards, although in decline, remain a common feature, with the trees often arranged in neat rows that frame views across the landscape. The skyline can appear cluttered due to the variety of vertical elements, including trees, built development and the overhead lines that are prominent in the northern part of the area. Despite these elements the farmland has a sense of tranquillity, especially away from the busier settlements and main roads.

Existing overhead lines are a feature in views, particularly where they cross the River Nene

Key Landscape Value Attributes

North of Wisbech and to the west of the River Nene, the area's character is defined by the open views, and historic field patterns. Even where fields have been merged, the historic layout remains evident through the drainage pattern.

Further south, the landscape is strongly influenced by proximity to Wisbech, with the A47 forming a clear divide between rural farmland and the town's suburbs, where larger commercial, retail, and industrial land uses begin to dominate. West of the A47, orchards and shelterbelts add visual diversity, contrasting with the flat, open fenland found elsewhere in the LCA.

Heritage assets include Conservation Areas and a high concentration of listed buildings in Wisbech and Leverington. Scheduled Monuments are associated with the churchyard at Walsoken with two round barrows and the Roman Bank ancient sea defence close to Leverington. Peckover House is a Registered Park and Garden and National Trust property situated on the west side of Wisbech.

The 14th-century rural settlement pattern, marked by trackways connecting villages to seasonal pastures, remains visible today through an irregular north-south county boundary and a distinct east-west alignment of fields, roads, and tracks. The current landscape pattern, however, was established in the late 19th century when Wisbech's fenland became a centre for market gardening and related industries. The settlement pattern retains some of its historic character, with visible use of local building materials although there has been more recent ribbon development along some of the main roads.

While the area holds no significant ecological value other than the River Nene County Wildlife Site and the network of artificial drainage channels, pockets of semi natural habitat remain between the arable fields, although these are highly fragmented and surrounded by intensively managed farmland.

The limited public right of way network includes sections of National Cycle Network Routes 1 and 63 which pass through the LCA with the Nene Way following the bank of the River Nene.

Discordant elements include the A47, a busy and fast-moving road and the commercial and retail developments on the edge of Wisbech. Three existing overhead lines cross the northern part of the LCA near Four Gotes.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape is considered to be medium.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

This is a flat and low-lying landscape which varies from small to medium scale near the orchards west of Wisbech, to large and open north of Leverington. Retail and commercial developments, and the urban influence of Wisbech, are already integral to the area's character. However, beyond the town, the rural landscape retains a simple, regular pattern of arable fields, defined by linear drains and dykes and orderly rows of orchard trees, maintaining a consistent agricultural land use.

West of Wisbech, the skyline within the LCA is diverse. In many areas, the tall shelterbelts linked to the orchards and higher tree cover around settlements, create a sense of enclosure, limiting views across the surrounding farmland.

In contrast, the landscape north of Leverington and Wisbech has a simpler skyline, although views are frequently interrupted by the three overhead lines that cross the northern part of the LCA. This existing infrastructure indicates that the landscape may be less susceptible to the visual impact of a new overhead line.

Traffic, including HGVs along the A47 contribute to the appearance of a busy landscape close to Wisbech.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCA within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **medium**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

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King's Lynn and West Norfolk Landscape Character

King's Lynn and West Norfolk LCA D2: Walpole, Terrington and Clenchwarton

Context

- LCT D: The Fens - Settled Inland Marshes
- NCA 46: The Fens

This LCA is situated in the northern part of the Study Area extending between Walpole Marsh eastwards to the A17 near Walpole Cross Keys.

Key Characteristics

- Flat and open, low-lying intensive arable farmland.
- Panoramic views to level horizons occasionally framed by fruit orchards scattered throughout the area.
- A network of drains and dykes, often aligned with reeds and rushes, demarcate the fields and often also follow the course of rural roads but are not prominent in the landscape.
- Woodland cover comprises a few small woodland blocks, occasional avenues alongside roads, isolated field trees and shelterbelts.
- Nucleated hamlets and villages are connected by a network of narrow, rural roads frequently lined with tall vegetation.
- Overhead lines and village churches are widely visible.
- Strong historic integrity including historic drainage network.

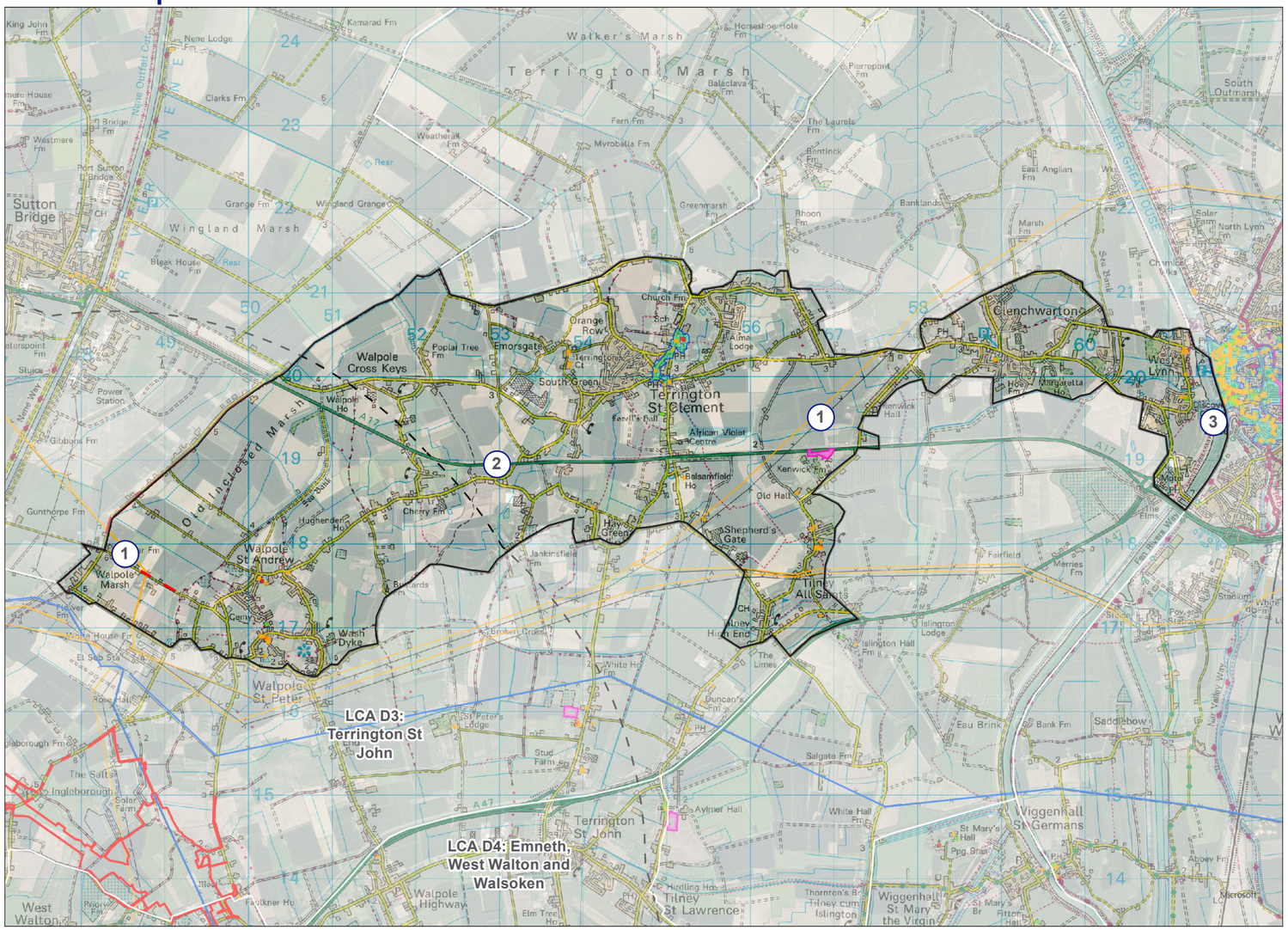
Baseline Description

This large-scale, low-lying landscape offers extensive panoramic views in all directions, occasionally framed by fruit orchards scattered throughout the area. To the west of the old sea bank (Eastlands Bank) the field pattern is very rectilinear, while to the east and around settlements it is smaller and much more irregular. Fields throughout the LCA are demarcated by a network of linear drains and dykes, often lined with reeds and rushes. Rows of poplars lining drains and dykes in the adjacent LCA D3 Terrington St. John are often prominent landmarks as are village churches. Drains and dykes are low and often only visible from a short distance, adding to the area's open, expansive character and the impression of a continuous tract of land.

The settlement pattern includes the village of Walpole St. Andrew and smaller settlement of Walpole Marsh, as well as ribbon development along the main roads. The architectural character ranges from traditional farmhouses to newer suburban homes made of red or buff brick. A network of narrow rural roads, often lined with tall vegetation connects these villages.

The horizon can appear cluttered due to various vertical elements of differing heights, including farmsteads, glasshouses, residential buildings, communication masts, and tall vegetation.

Location Map



Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits

Notes

1. Existing 132 kV overhead line
2. A17
3. River Great Ouse

The tranquillity of the area is largely influenced by its proximity to the busy A17, which crosses the LCA, introducing a constant background of noise and movement.

Overhead lines are a feature of views to the south of the LCA as they converge on the existing Walpole Substation near Walpole St Peter

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The landscape has an intact and recognisable fenland character of large, flat geometric arable fields bordered by a network of linear drains and dykes. Intensive farming practices have led to field amalgamation, but even where fields have been merged, the historic layout remains evident through the drainage patterns.

The settlement pattern retains some of its historic character, with visible use of local building materials although there has been more recent ribbon development along the main roads. While the area holds no significant ecological value other than the River Nene County Wildlife Site and the network of drains and dykes, pockets of semi natural habitat remain, although these are highly fragmented, surrounded by intensively managed farmland.

This well-settled LCA has a distinctive sense of place imparted by the large scale open arable farmland and long history of artificial drainage, but lacks significant historic interest. Whilst there are remnants of medieval field systems, the field pattern is generally associated with drainage from the 17th century onwards. This is overlain with the rigid geometry of the later Parliamentary Enclosures of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Discordant elements include the A17, and a horizon that appears cluttered in places due to the variety of vertical elements of differing sizes, including large farm units, communication masts, rows of poplars and the overhead lines which cross the western side of the LCA. Other overhead lines are also visual detractors in views to the south.

The public right of way network is relatively sparse but National Cycle Network Route 1 crosses the LCA north of Wisbech

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape is considered to be medium.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The landscape has an intact and recognisable fenland character with a strong pattern of large geometric arable fields bordered by a network of inconspicuous drains and dykes that contributes to an overall sense of openness and isolation.

The high levels of intervisibility across the open landscape and the prominence of landmark churches in views both indicate higher levels of susceptibility. However, this is counterbalanced by the presence of several overhead lines crossing the farmland to converge on Walpole Substation near Walpole St Peter in the adjacent LCA D3 Terrington St John, which indicates the landscape is less susceptible to a new overhead line. Movement of vehicles along the busy A17 also locally reduces the tranquillity and sense of isolation experienced away from the settlements.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCA within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table C, the susceptibility of the LCA within the Study Area to a new 400 kV substation is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **medium**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table C: Landscape Susceptibility to a Substation

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Horlock Rule 4)	
Landcover pattern	
Field pattern, scale and enclosure	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV substation is judged to be **medium**.

King's Lynn and West Norfolk LCA D3: Terrington St John

Context

- LCT D: The Fens - Settled Inland Marshes
- NCA 46: The Fens

This LCA is situated north east of Wisbech, bordered by the A47 to the east and south and the River Nene to the west. Much of the LCA falls within the Study Area.

Key Characteristics

- A large-scale, low-lying landscape offering expansive, panoramic views.
- More enclosed in areas with settlements, shelterbelts, and orchards.
- Arable farmland, with fields of varying sizes defined by a network of artificial drainage channels.
- Watercourse embankments create strong linear features.
- Sparsely treed landscape comprising small woodland blocks, roadside avenues, isolated field trees, and rows of poplars.
- Straight busy main roads with ribbon development around their intersections with smaller rural roads.
- Overhead lines are a prominent skyline element, particularly around Walpole Substation.
- While the A47 is busy and farm machinery adds movement, a strong sense of tranquillity and isolation persists away from settlements and main roads.

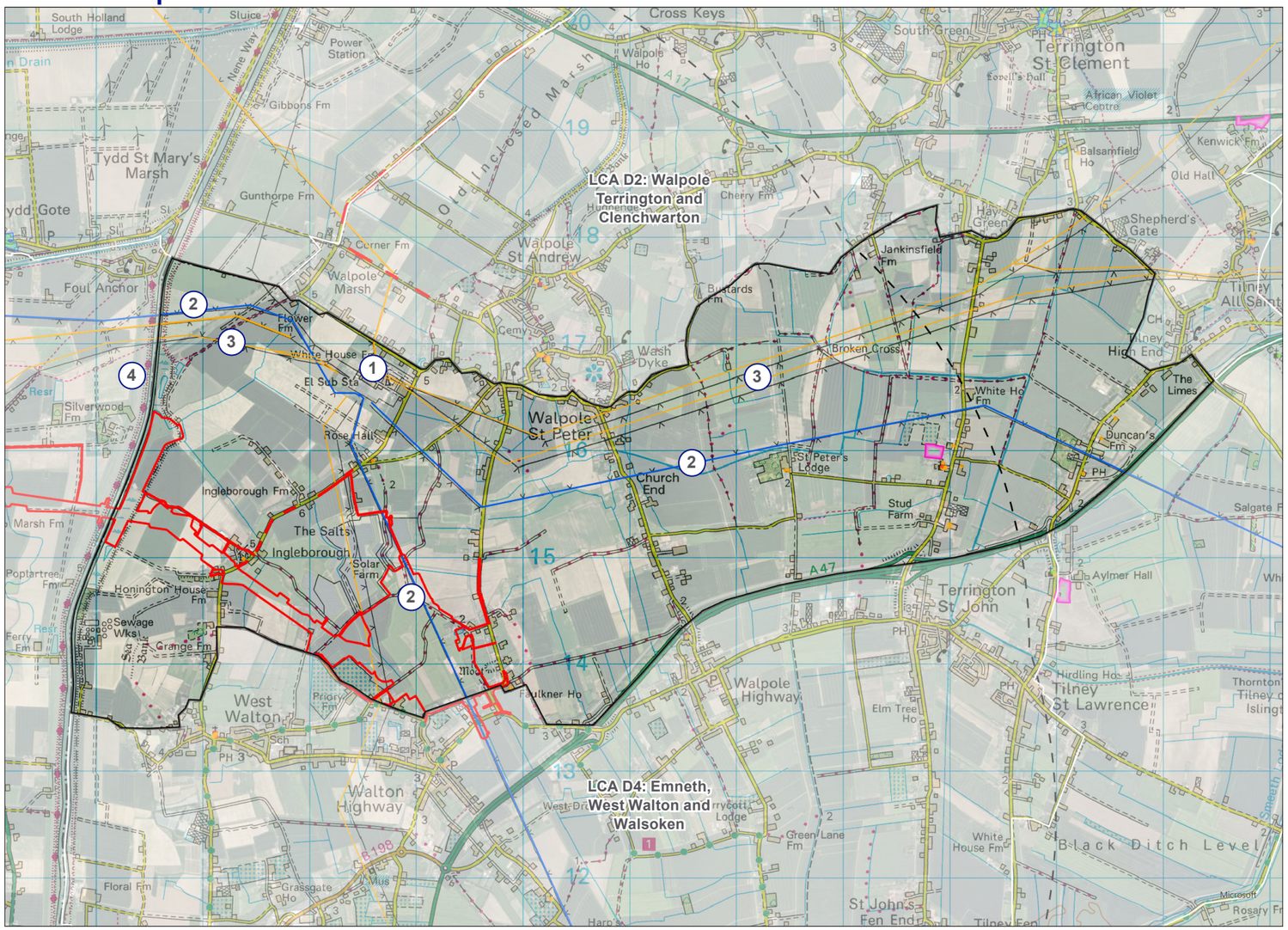
Baseline Description

This flat, low-lying LCA is bordered by the A47 to the east and south. Land use is mainly intensive arable farmland comprising geometric fields defined by a network of linear drains and dykes (often lined with reeds and rushes). Small bridges crossing the larger drains are found throughout the farmland and contribute to the sense of place. Towards the River Nene, field sizes become larger and more open with panoramic views and wide horizons.

Settlement includes the villages of Terrington St. John and Walpole St Peter, scattered houses and large farmsteads. Set back from the roads and concentrated around settlement edges, the neat rows of fruit trees in orchards frame views and provide a strong sense of place. Several straight, fairly busy roads (often with ribbon development), cross the LCA from north to south, connected by several more rural and peaceful roads.

Views across the area are dominated by rows of poplars and the existing overhead lines which converge on Walpole Substation. Solar development is present but not prominent in the landscape unless seen in close proximity.

Location Map



Background Mapping information has been reproduced from the OS map by permission of OS on behalf of The controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office. ©Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey. National Grid Electricity - 100024241

Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits

Notes

1. Existing Walpole Substation
2. Existing 400 kV overhead line
3. Existing 132 kV overhead line
4. River Nene

Key Landscape Value Attributes

The landscape has an intact and recognisable fenland character of large, flat geometric arable fields bordered by a network of artificial drainage channels.

There are few visible assets of historic importance within the LCA other than a single Scheduled Monument (moated site and medieval field system) north of Terrington St John on the edge of the Study Area, and the surviving 18th-century field patterns, which can still be seen in the historic drainage patterns, even where fields have been amalgamated. The settlement pattern retains some of its historic character, with visible use of local building materials although there has been more recent ribbon development along the main roads.

The River Nene is a County Wildlife Site and there are isolated pockets of semi natural habitat between the arable fields and along the drains and dykes but there is little other ecological interest.

While settlement and transport routes are limited and a rural character is prevalent, the skyline is often cluttered by vertical elements including pylons, buildings, and tall vegetation.

Large individual farmsteads located between main settlements, overhead lines are a feature of views

There are very few public rights of way in the LCA other than the Nene Way which follows the canalised River Nene just outside the LCA. A section of National Cycle Network Route 1 passes through the north of the LCA on the edge of the LCA.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table A, the value of the landscape is considered to be medium.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The intact and recognisable fenland character of large, flat geometric arable fields bordered by a network of linear drains and dykes is crossed by several overhead lines and as they converge on Walpole Substation near Walpole St Peter, indicating that the landscape is less susceptible to a new overhead line.

The wide panoramic views across the fenland and adjacent LCAs (including views of West Walton Church) are susceptible to visual intrusion.

The landscape is tranquil and has a sense of isolation in places but also contains visual and audible detractors including the busy A47 and the many overhead lines which cross the LCA.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCA within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table C, the susceptibility of the LCA within the Study Area to a new 400 kV substation is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **medium**.

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table C: Landscape Susceptibility to a Substation

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Horlock Rule 4)	
Landcover pattern	
Field pattern, scale and enclosure	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV substation is judged to be **medium**.

King's Lynn and West Norfolk LCA D4: Emneth, West Walton and Walsoken

Context

- LCT D: The Fens - Settled Inland Marshes
- NCA 46: The Fens

This LCA extends around the northern and eastern sides of Wisbech where it forms part of the settled inland marshes, a landscape where settlement is present in many views.

Key Characteristics

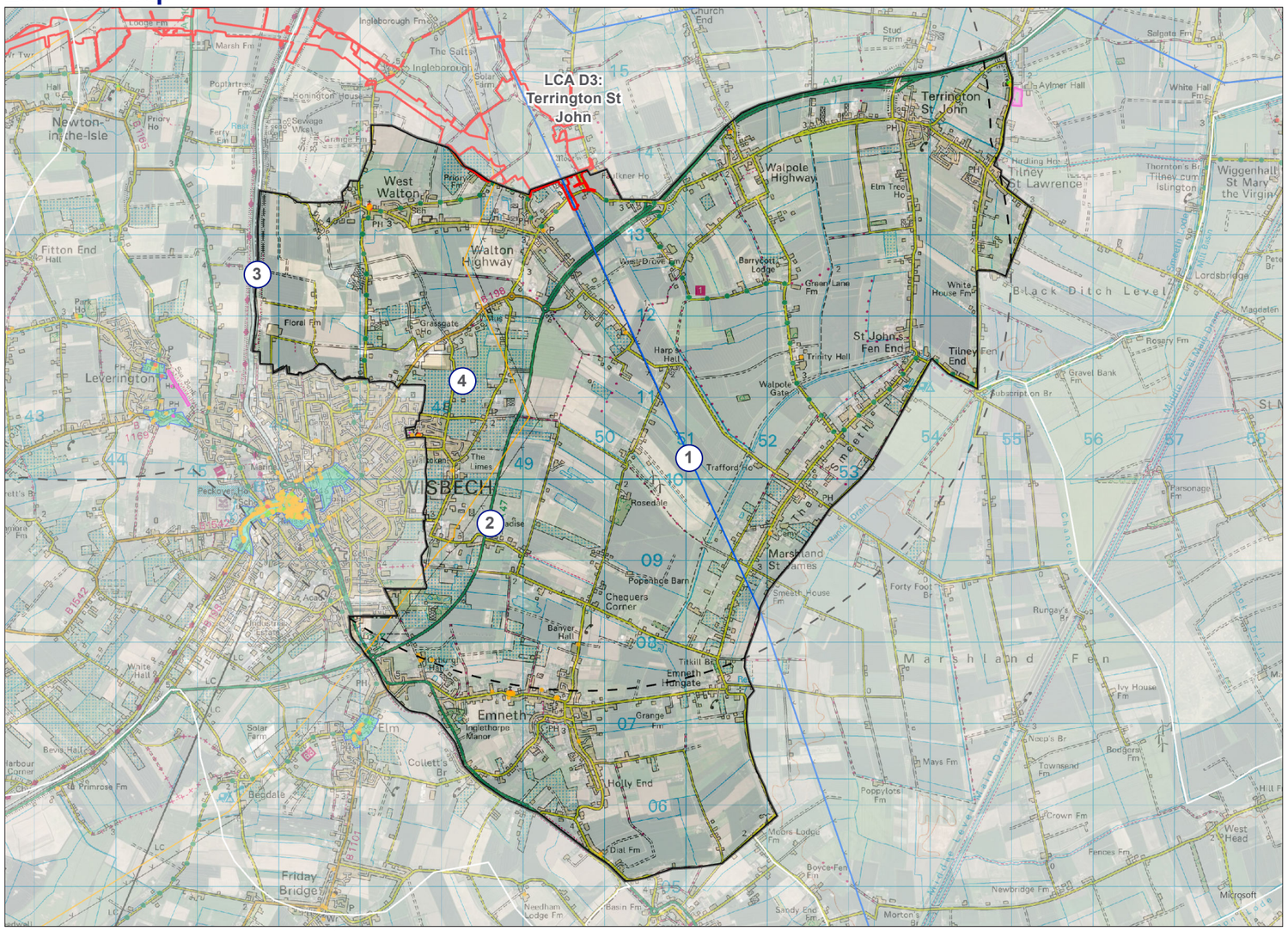
- Expansive, flat, open, low-lying landscape.
- The rectilinear field pattern is defined by a network of artificial drainage channels.
- Settlement is mainly found along secondary roads and has a linear arrangement with villages often merging through ribbon development.
- Woodland cover is sparse, notably a few small woodland blocks, occasional avenues alongside roads, isolated field trees, shelterbelts and rows of poplars, with a concentration of orchards on the eastern fringes of Wisbech.
- The shelterbelts and rows of polars provide a distinctive backdrop to many views.
- Away from the main roads and urban edge of Wisbech, the landscape is rural and relatively tranquil.
- Long, straight tracks and roads, connect settlements and define the fen 'compartments' which are a distinctive aspect of Wisbech's landscape.
- Buildings and storage facilities linked to horticulture and food production industries are common, particularly around the outskirts of the town.
- Two overhead lines cross the LCA and the pylons are a prominent skyline element.

Baseline Description

This LCA lies to the east of Wisbech and is an intensively farmed arable landscape of mainly geometric fields divided by a network of linear drains and dykes. The artificial watercourses, frequently lined with reeds, rushes and occasionally shrubs (including ash, willow and hawthorn) introduce variations in topography. On the fringes of settlements, the landscape pattern is typically of a smaller scale and has a more enclosed character in areas where there is a mix of settlement, shelterbelts and orchards. Small bridges over the drains and dykes are a distinctive element.

Orchards are particularly common east of Wisbech, where they introduce a sense of enclosure as their neatly arranged rows of low trees frame views, contrasting with the openness found elsewhere in the LCA. Settlement is

Location Map



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Key

- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building:
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II*
- 5 km Study Area
- Existing 400 kV OHL
- Existing 132 kV OHL
- Draft Order Limits

Notes

1. Existing 400 kV overhead line
2. A47
3. River Nene
4. Fruit farms

largely characterised by scattered farms along rural roads and linear villages such as Tilney St. Lawrence, and Marshland St. James, which display a mix of old and new buildings.

A network of several broadly parallel roads, often lined with tall, species-rich vegetation including mature oak and ash trees, connects the villages in the area. Despite the activity around the urban edge of Wisbech and the A47, much of the area retains a strong sense of tranquillity.

The landscape displays a patchwork of arable fields, orchards, and plantation woodlands. However, its character is dominated by vertical elements such as large farm units, wind turbines, glasshouses, overhead lines, rows of poplars, and other tall vegetation. These features contribute to a somewhat cluttered appearance, with few notable focal points.

Key Landscape Value Attributes

Views from settlements are filtered by vegetation where field patterns tend to be smaller than the surrounding open farmland

The landscape has an intact and recognisable fenland character of large, flat geometric arable fields bordered by a network of linear drains and dykes. The intensive farming practices have contributed to loss of traditional field boundaries, and some of the orchards are declining.

The River Nene is a County Wildlife Site and there are isolated pockets of semi natural habitat between the arable fields although these are very fragmented.

There are few assets of historic importance within the LCA other than the surviving 18th-century field patterns, which can still be seen in the drainage patterns, even where fields have been amalgamated.

There are few public rights of way but a section of National Cycle Network Route 1 passes through the LCA.

Based on the above and the judgements made against factors listed in Table A below, the value of the landscape is considered to be medium.

Key Landscape Susceptibility Attributes

The mature landscape structure generated by the rows of poplars and concentration of orchards may be susceptible to physical change, but existing overhead lines are already part of the baseline character indicating lower susceptibility to new high-voltage electricity infrastructure.

The expansive panoramic views across the fens and adjacent LCAs often feature notable churches, making these views particularly vulnerable to visual intrusion.

The landscape is tranquil and has a sense of isolation in places but also contains visual and audible detractors including the busy A47 and the settlement edge of Wisbech.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table B, the susceptibility of the LCA within the Study Area to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be medium.

Based on the above and the judgements made against the factors listed in Table C, the susceptibility of the LCA within the Study Area to a new 400 kV substation is considered to be medium.

Table A: Landscape Value

Factors used to judge value	Judgements on value Lower ⟷ Higher
Landscape character and quality	
Scenic quality	
Conservation interests	
Recreation value	
Perceptual aspects and tranquillity	
Associations	
Overall Value	The value of this landscape is judged to be **medium**

Table B: Landscape Susceptibility to a 400 kV OHL

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Holford Rules 4 and 5)	
Landcover (Holford Rules 5 and 6)	
Scale	
Skylines (Holford Rule 4)	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV overhead line is considered to be **medium**.

Table C: Landscape Susceptibility to a Substation

Factors used to judge susceptibility	Judgements on susceptibility Lower ⟷ Higher
Landform (Horlock Rule 4)	
Landcover pattern	
Field pattern, scale and enclosure	
Human influence	
Overall Susceptibility	The susceptibility of this landscape to a new 400 kV substation is judged to be **medium**.

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